Joshua A. Sussberg, P.C.
Christopher Marcus, P.C.
Christine A. Okike, P.C.
Allyson B. Smith (admitted *pro hac vice*)
KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP
KIRKLAND & ELLIS INTERNATIONAL LLP
601 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10022
Telephone: (212) 446-4800
Facsimile: (212) 446-4900

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

	_	
In re:)	Chapter 11
VOYAGER DIGITAL HOLDINGS, INC., et al.,1)	Case No. 22-10943 (MEW)
Debtors.)	(Jointly Administered)
)	

DEBTORS' MEMORANDUM OF LAW
IN SUPPORT OF (I) FINAL APPROVAL OF THE SECOND
AMENDED DISCLOSURE STATEMENT RELATING TO THE THIRD
AMENDED JOINT PLAN OF VOYAGER DIGITAL HOLDINGS, INC.
AND ITS DEBTOR AFFILIATES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 11 OF THE
BANKRUPTCY CODE AND (II) AN ORDER CONFIRMING THE THIRD
AMENDED JOINT PLAN OF VOYAGER DIGITAL HOLDINGS, INC. AND ITS
DEBTOR AFFILIATES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 11 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE

The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc. (7687); Voyager Digital Ltd. (7224); and Voyager Digital, LLC (8013). The location of the Debtors' principal place of business is 33 Irving Place, Suite 3060, New York, NY 10003.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

				Page(s)
Prelin	ninary S	Stateme	ent	1
Argu	ment			10
I.	Case	Backgr	ound and Objections	11
	A.	Proce	edural History	11
	В.	The F	Restructuring Transactions.	16
		1.	The Sale Transaction	17
		2.	The Liquidation Transaction	18
		3.	The Wind-Down.	19
	C.	The F	Plan Solicitation and Notification Process.	20
	D.	The C	Objections	22
II.	Section	on 1125	ure Statement Contains "Adequate Information" as Required by 5 of the Bankruptcy Code, and the Debtors Complied with the Notice Requirements.	23
	A.	The I	Disclosure Statement Contains Adequate Information	23
	A.		Debtors Complied with the Applicable Notice and Solicitation irements.	26
	B.		itation of the Plan Complied with the Bankruptcy Code and was in I Faith.	27
III.	The F	Plan Sat	tisfies the Requirements of Section 1129 of the Bankruptcy Code	27
	A.		Plan Complies with the Applicable Provisions of the Bankruptcy (§ 1129(a)(1)).	27
		1.	The Plan Satisfies the Classification Requirements of Section 112 of the Bankruptcy Code.	
		2.	The Plan Satisfies the Mandatory Plan Requirements of Section 1123(a) of the Bankruptcy Code	31
			(1) Designation of Classes of Claims and Equity Interests (§ 1123(a)(1))	31

		(2)	Specif	ication of Unimpaired Classes (§ 1123(a)(2))	31
		(3)	Treatm	nent of Impaired Classes (§ 1123(a)(3))	32
		(4)	Equal '	Treatment within Classes (§ 1123(a)(4))	32
		(5)	Means	for Implementation (§ 1123(a)(5))	33
		(6)	Issuan	ce of Non-Voting Securities (§ 1123(a)(6))	34
		(7)	Directo	ors and Officers (§ 1123(a)(7))	34
	3.			plies with the Discretionary Provisions of b) of the Bankruptcy Code	35
		(1)		ettlement of Claims and Controversies Is Fair and ble and Should be Approved	37
		(2)		an's Release, Exculpation, and Injunction Provisions Section 1123(b) of the Bankruptcy Code	39
			(i)	The Debtor Release Is Appropriate	39
			(ii)	The Third-Party Release is Wholly Consensual and Is Appropriate.	42
			(iii)	The Exculpation Provision Is Appropriate	45
			(iv)	The Injunction Provision Is Appropriate	48
		(3)	Section	ale Transaction Should Be Approved Under as 363(b)(1) and 1123(b)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code and Exercise of the Debtors' Business Judgment	49
	4.	The Pl	an Com	plies with Section 1123(d) of the Bankruptcy Code	53
B.			-	d with the Applicable Provisions of the 129(a)(2))	54
	1.	The D	ebtors C	Complied with Section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code	55
	2.	The D	ebtors C	Complied with Section 1126 of the Bankruptcy Code	56
C.	The Pl	an Was	Propos	ed in Good Faith (§ 1129(a)(3))	57
D.				at the Debtors' Payment of Professional Fees and to Court Approval (§ 1129(a)(4))	59

	E.		an Does Not Require Additional Disclosures Regarding Directors, rs, and Insiders (§ 1129(a)(5))	60
	F.		an Does Not Require Governmental Regulatory Approval 9(a)(6))	61
	G.		an Is in the Best Interests of All the Debtors' Creditors 9(a)(7))	62
	H.		an Is Confirmable Notwithstanding the Requirements of n 1129(a)(8) of the Bankruptcy Code.	64
	I.		an Provides for Payment in Full of All Allowed Priority Claims 9(a)(9))	65
	J.		ast One Class of Impaired, Non-Insider Claims Accepted the Plan 9(a)(10))	66
	K.	The Pl	an Is Feasible (§ 1129(a)(11))	67
	L.	All Sta	atutory Fees Have Been or Will Be Paid (§ 1129(a)(12))	69
	M.	No Re	maining Retiree Benefits Obligations (§ 1129(a)(13))	70
	N.	Section	ns 1129(a)(14) through 1129(a)(16) Do Not Apply to the Plan	70
	O.		an Satisfies the "Cram Down" Requirements of Section 1129(b) of nkruptcy Code	70
		1.	The Plan Is Fair and Equitable (§ 1129(b)(2)(B)(ii))	71
		2.	The Plan Does Not Unfairly Discriminate with Respect to the Impaired Classes that Have Not Voted to Accept the Plan (§ 1129(b)(1))	72
	P.	The D	ebtors Complied with Section 1129(d) of the Bankruptcy Code	74
	Q.	Modif	ications to the Plan	74
	R.	Good	Cause Exists to Waive the Stay of the Confirmation Order	75
IV.	The O	bjection	s to the Plan Should be Overruled	77
	A.		isclosure Statement Provides Adequate Information Regarding the ransaction.	77
	В.	Binanc	isclosure Statement Provides Adequate Information as to ce.US's Financial Condition and Solvency and the Feasibility of the ransaction.	79

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 5 of 135

C.	The Disclosure Statement Provides Adequate Information Regarding the Transfer of Account Holders and Cryptocurrency to Binance.US	81
D.	The Disclosure Statement Contains Adequate Information Regarding the Financial Consequences of the Plan.	83
E.	The Plan Does Not Violate Applicable Law	84
F.	The Release and Exculpation Provisions of the Plan Are Reasonable and Appropriate.	85
G.	The AHG Objection is Satisfied Pursuant to Language Added to the Confirmation Order	92
H.	The Debtors' Treatment of Account Holders Claims Is Appropriate and Consistent with Bankruptcy Code.	93
I.	The Customer Objections Raise Issues That are Not Barriers to Confirmation.	101
	The Newsom and Warren Objection and the Hendershott et al. Objection	101
	2. The Shehadeh Papers.	103
J.	The BNY Objection Should Be Overruled as No Transfer has Occurred	105
Conclusion.		105

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Cases	Page(s)
In re 500 Fifth Ave. Assocs., 148 B.R. 1010 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1993), aff'd, No. 93-cv-844, 1993 WL 316183 (S.D.N.Y. May 21, 1993)	10, 28, 29
In re Adelphia Bus. Sols., Inc., 341 B.R. 415 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2003)	67
In re Adelphia Commc'ns Corp., 368 B.R. 140 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2007)	40, 59, 63, 96
In re Advanced Science Technologies, Inc., Case No. 17-13668 (SMB) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Feb. 7, 2018)	46
In re Aegean Marine Petroleum Network, Inc., 599 B.R. 717 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2019)	passim
In re Aleris Int'l, Inc., No. 09-10478 (BLS), 2010 WL 3492664 (Bankr. D. Del. May 13, 2010)	68
In re Ambanc La Mesa L.P., 115 F.3d 650 (9th Cir. 1997)	71, 97
In re Amfesco Indus., Inc., No. CV-88-2952 (JBW), 1988 WL 141524 (E.D.N.Y. Dec. 21, 1988)	24
In re AMR Corp., 562 B.R. 20 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2016)	99
In re Avaya Inc., Case No. 17-10089 (SMB) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Nov. 28, 2017)	46
Bank of Am. Nat. Trust & Sav. Ass'n v. 203 N. LaSalle St. P'ship, 526 U.S. 434 (1999)	63, 72
In re Barneys New York, Inc., Case No. 19-36300 (CGM) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Nov. 15, 2019)	22, 90
Berkeley Fed. Bank & Trust v. Sea Garden Motel and Apartments (In re Sea Garden Motel and Apartments), 195 B.R. 294 (D.N.J. 1996)	68
In re Boston Generating, LLC, 440 B.R. 302 (Bankr, S.D.N.Y. 2010)	50

In re Breitburn Energy Partners LP, 582 B.R. 321 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. March 12, 2018)	95, 96
In re Brotby, 303 B.R. 177 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2003)	68
BSL Operating Corp. v. 125 E Taverns, Inc. (In re BSL Operating Corp.), 57 B.R. 945 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1986)	24
In re Burns & Roe Enters., Inc., No. 08-4191 (GEB), 2009 WL 438694 (D.N.J. Feb. 23, 2009)	75
In re Buttonwood Partners, Ltd., 111 B.R. 57 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1990)	73
In re Calpine Corp., No. 05-60200 (BRL), 2007 WL 4565223 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Dec. 19, 2007)	43
In re Cellular Info. Sys., Inc., 171 B.R. 926 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1994)	58
In re Cengage Learning, Inc., Case No. 13-44106 (ESS) (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. Mar. 14, 2014)	46
In re Cengage Learning, Inc., No. 13-44106 (ESS) (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. Mar. 14, 2014)	47
In re Cent. Med. Ctr., Inc., 122 B.R. 568 (Bankr. E.D. Mo. 1990)	96
In re Century Glove, Inc., 1993 WL 239489, at *7 (D. Del. Feb. 10, 1993)	63
In re Charter Commc'ns, Inc., 419 B.R. 221 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2009)	40
In re Charter Commc'ns, Inc., Case No. 09-11435 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Nov. 17, 2009)	46
In re Chassix Holdings, Inc., 533 B.R. 64 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2015)	43
In re Chemtura Corp., 439 B.R. 561 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2010)	43
In re Chemtura Corp., No. 09-11233 (REG) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Nov. 23, 2010)	76

In re Copy Crafters Quickprint, Inc., 92 B.R. 973 (Bankr. N.D.N.Y. 1988)	24
In re Cumulus Media Inc., Case No. 17-13381 (SCC) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. May 10, 2018)	46
In re Dana Corp, 412 B.R. 53 (S.D.N.Y. 2008)	33, 95
In re Ditech Holding Corp., 606 B.R. 544 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2019)	87
In re DJK Residential, LLC, No. 08-10375 (JMP) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. May 7, 2008)	47
In re Drexel Burnham Lambert Grp., 960 F.2d 285 (2d Cir. 1992)	49
In re Drexel Burnham Lambert Grp., Inc., 138 B.R. 723 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1992)	28, 29, 58, 60
In re Eastman Kodak Co., 2012 Bankr. LEXIS 2746 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. June 15, 2012)	50
In re Eastman Kodak Co., Case No. 12-10202 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Aug. 23, 2013)	46
In re Eddington Thread Mfg. Co., 181 B.R. 826 (Bankr. E.D. Pa. 1995)	68
In re Enron Corp., 326 B.R. 497 (S.D.N.Y. 2005)	46
In re Extended Stay Inc., No. 09-13764 (JMP) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. July 20, 2010)	76
In re Fairway Group Holdings Corp., Case No. 16-11241 (MEW) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. June 8, 2016)	46
In re Filene's Basement, LLC, 11-13511 (KJC), 2014 WL 1713416 (Bankr. D. Del. Apr. 29, 2014)	50
Frito-Lay, Inc. v. LTV Steel Co. (In re Chateaugay Corp.), 10 F.3d 944 (2d Cir. 1993)	28
In re Frontier Communications Corporation, Case No. 20-22476 (RDD) (Bankr, S.D.N.Y. Aug. 21, 2020)	90

In re FTX Trading Ltd., Case No. 22-11068 (JTD) (Bankr. D. Del. Nov. 11, 2022)	6
In re FTX Trading Ltd., No. 22-11068 (Bankr. D. Del. Nov. 11, 2022)	2, 5
In re Gaston & Snow, Nos. 93-8517 (JGK), 93-8628 (JGK), 1996 WL 694421 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 4, 1996)	58
In re Gen. Growth Props., 426 B.R. 71 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2010)	87
In re Genco Shipping & Trading Ltd., 513 B.R. 233 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2014)	43
In re Glob. Safety Textiles Holdings LLC, No. 09-12234 (KG), 2009 WL 6825278 (Bankr. D. Del. Nov. 30, 2009)	75
In re GSC, Inc., 453 B.R. 132 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2011)	50
In re Hollander Sleep Products, LLC, No. 19-11608 (MEW) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. May 19, 2019)	37, 49
In re Indianapolis Downs, LLC, 486 B.R. 286 (Bankr. D. Del. 2013)	43
In re Innkeepers USA Trust, 448 B.R. 131 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2011)	50
In re Integrated Res., Inc., 147 B.R. 650 (S.D.N.Y. 1992), appeal dismissed, 3 F.3d 49 (2d Cir. 1993)	50
In re International Shipholding Corp., Case No. 16-12220 (SMB) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. March 2, 2017)	46
In re Ionosphere Clubs, Inc., 179 B.R. 24 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1995)	24
In re Ionosphere Clubs, Inc., 98 B.R. 174 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1989)	29
In re Iridium Operating LLCs, 478 F.3d 452 (2d Cir. 2007)	41
In re Jason Industries, Inc., Case No. 20-22766 (RDD) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Aug. 17, 2020)	90

In re Jewish Memorial Hosp., 13 B.R. 417 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1981)	73
In re John Hancock Mut. Life Ins. Co., 987 F.2d 154 (3d Cir. 1993)	71
In re Johns-Manville Corp., 60 B.R. 612 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1986)	50
In re Johns-Manville Corp., 68 B.R.	55
Kane v. Johns-Manville Corp., 843 F.2d 636 (2d Cir. 1988)	58, 67, 68
In re Keene Corp., 164 B.R. 844 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1994)	87
Kirk v. Texaco, Inc., 82 B.R. 678, 682 (S.D.N.Y. 1988)	24
In re Lakeland Tours, LLC, Case No. 20-11647 (JLG) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Aug. 21, 2020)	90
In re Lapworth, No. 97-34529 (DWS), 1998 WL 767456 (Bankr. E.D. Pa. Nov. 2, 1998)	55
<i>In re Latam Airlines Group SA</i> , 2022 WL 2206829 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y June 18, 2022)	33, 95, 96
In re Lionel Corp., 722 F.2d 1063 (2d Cir. 1983)	50
In re Lisanti Foods, Inc., 329 B.R. 491 (Bankr. D.N.J. 2005)	25
Manati Sugar Co. v. Mock, 75 F.2d 284 (2d Cir. 1935)	58
Mercury Capital Corp. v. Milford Conn. Assocs., L.P., 354 B.R. 1 (D. Conn. 2006), remanded, No. 04-30511, 2008 WL 687266 (Bankr. D. Conn. Mar. 10, 2008)	68
In re Mesa Air Grp., Inc., No. 10-10018 MG, 2011 WL 320466 (Bankr, S.D.N.Y. Jan. 20, 2011)	96 97

In re Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios Inc., Case No. 10-15774 (SMB) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Dec. 6, 2010)	46
In re Metrocraft Publ'g Servs., Inc., 39 B.R. 567 (Bankr. N.D. Ga. 1984)	25
In re Metromedia Fiber Network, Inc., 416 F.3d 136 (2d Cir. 2005)	43
In re Momentum Mfg. Corp., 25 F.3d 1132 (2d Cir. 1994)	24, 56
In re MPM Silicones, 2014 WL 4436335	43
In re Neff Corp., Case No. 10-12610 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Sept. 20, 2010)	46
In re New Power Co., 438 F.3d 1113 (11th Cir. 2006)	96
In re NII Holdings, Inc., 536 B.R. 61 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2015)	40, 41
In re Oldco M. Corp., No. 09-13412 (MG) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Feb. 23, 2010)	76
In re Oneida Ltd., 351 B.R. 79 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2006)	40, 46
Oneida Motor Freight, Inc. v. United Jersey Bank, 848 F.2d 414 (3d Cir. 1988)	24
In re Pacific Drilling S.A., Case No. 17-13193 (MEW) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Nov. 2, 2018)	46
In re PC Liquidation Corp., 383 B.R. 856 (E.D.N.Y. 2008)	24
In re Penton Bus. Media Holdings, Inc., No. 10-10689 (AJG) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Mar. 5, 2010)	76
In re Phoenix Petroleum Co., 278 B.R. 385 (Bankr. E.D. Pa. 2001)	24, 26
In re Premier Int'l Holdings, Inc., 2010 WL 2745964 (CSS) (Bankr. D. Del. Apr. 29, 2010)	47

In re Prudential Energy Co., 58 B.R. 857 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1986)	67
In re PWS Holding Corp., 228 F.3d 224 (3d Cir. 2000)	47
In re RDA Holding Co., Case No. 13-22233 (RDD) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. June 28, 2013)	46
In re Reader's Digest Ass'n, Inc., No. 09-23529 (RDD) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Jan. 15, 2010)	28
In re Reader's Digest Ass'n, Inc., No. 09-23529 (RDD) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Jan. 15, 2010)	29
In re Relativity Media, LLC, Case No. 18-11358 (MEW) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Jan. 31, 2019)	46
In re River Village Assoc., 181 B.R. 795 (E.D. Pa. 1995)	24
In re Sabine Oil & Gas Corp., 555 B.R. 180 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2016)	29
In re Scioto Valley Mortg. Co., 88 B.R. 168 (Bankr. S.D. Ohio 1988)	25
Smith v. Van Gorkom, 488 A.2d 858 (Del. 1985)	50
In re Spansion, 2010 WL 2905001 (Bankr. D. Del. April 16, 2010)	47
In re Stone Barn Manhattan LLC, 405 B.R. 68 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2009)	87
In re Tex. Extrusion Corp., 844 F.2d 1142 (5th Cir. 1988)	24
In re Texaco Inc., 84 B.R. 893 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1988)	55, 58, 67
In re Toy & Sports Warehouse, Inc., 37 B.R. 141 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1984)	55, 59
<i>In re U.S. Brass Corp.</i> , 194 B.R. 20 (Bankr. E.D. Tex. 1996)	25

United States v. Samuel Bankman-Fried, Caroline Ellison, and Gary Wang, No. 22-cr-673 (RA) (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 19, 2022)	2
In re Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc., No. 2210943 (MEW) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Jan. 10, 2023)	passim
Westland Oil Dev. Corp. v. MCorp Mgmt. Sols., Inc., 157 B.R. 100 (S.D. Tex. 1993)	25
In re Windstream Holdings, Inc., Case No. 19-22312 (RDD) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. June 22, 2020)	90
In re Windstream Holdings, Inc., No. 19-22312 (RDD), (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. May 8, 2020)	46
In re Wool Growers Cent. Storage Co., 371 B.R. 768 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. 2007)	43
In re Worldcom, Inc., 2003 WL 23861928 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Oct. 31, 2003)	55, 60, 73
Statutes	
11 U.S.C. § 101(31)	61
11 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(L)	91
11 U.S.C. § 363	49, 50, 51
11 U.S.C. § 365	36, 54, 76
11 U.S.C. § 503	66
11 U.S.C. § 507	66, 69
11 U.S.C. § 510(b)	passim
11 U.S.C. § 541	87
11 U.S.C. § 727	91
11 U.S.C. § 1102	1
11 U.S.C. § 1107	1
11 U.S.C. § 1108	1
11 U.S.C. § 1114	70

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 14 of 135

11 U.S.C. § 1122	passim
11 U.S.C. § 1123	passim
11 U.S.C. § 1125	passim
11 U.S.C. § 1126	20, 55, 57, 58
11 U.S.C. § 1127	74, 75
11 U.S.C. § 1128	70
11 U.S.C. § 1129	passim
11 U.S.C. § 1141	92
28 U.S.C. § 1930	69, 70
31 U.S.C. § 3717	70
U.S.C. title 49	97
Securities Act	74, 84, 85
Rules	
Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1015(b)	1
Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3017	55
Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3018	55
Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3019	75
Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3020	76
Fed. R. Bankr. P. 6004	76
Fed. R. Bankr. P. 6006	76
Other Authorities	
H.R. Rep. No. 595, at 408-09 (1977)	24
S. Rep. No. 95-989 (1978), reprinted in 1978 U.S.C.C.A.N. 5787	24

The above-captioned debtors (collectively, the "Debtors") submit this memorandum of law (this "Memorandum") in support of (a) approval of the Second Amended Disclosure Statement Relating to the Third Amended Joint Plan of Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc. and Its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code (the "Disclosure Statement") on a final basis² and (b) confirmation of the Third Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc. and Its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code [Docket No. 852] (as modified, amended, or supplemented from time to time, the "Plan"), pursuant to section 1129 of title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101–1532 (the "Bankruptcy Code"). In support of confirmation of the Plan and approval of the Disclosure Statement on a final basis and in response to the objections thereto (collectively, the "Objections"), the Debtors respectfully state as follows:

Preliminary Statement

1. As the first significant cryptocurrency restructuring, the Debtors' chapter 11 cases featured several novel and unprecedented challenges.

The Disclosure Statement was conditionally approved by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (the "Court") on January 13, 2023 [Docket No. 861], subject to final approval at the Combined Hearing.

Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Plan, the Disclosure Statement, or the Confirmation Order (as defined herein), as applicable.

A detailed description of the Debtors and their businesses and the facts and circumstances surrounding the Debtors' chapter 11 cases is set forth in greater detail in the *Declaration of Stephen Ehrlich, Chief Executive Officer of the Debtors, in Support of Chapter 11 Petitions and First Day Motions* [Docket No. 15] (the "First Day Declaration"). On July 5, 2022 (the "Petition Date"), each of the Debtors filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors are operating their business and managing their properties as debtors in possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors' chapter 11 cases have been consolidated for procedural purposes only and are being jointly administered pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b) [Docket No 18]. On July 19, 2022, the United States Trustee for the Southern District of New York (the "U.S. Trustee") appointed an official committee of unsecured creditors pursuant to section 1102 of the Bankruptcy Code (the "Committee") [Docket No. 106].

- 2. The Debtors were weeks away from consummating a sale when their proposed purchaser, FTX, epically collapsed. FTX's new CEO publicly announced that the proposed purchaser was a fraud of historic proportions,⁴ sending shockwaves through the entire cryptocurrency industry. Senior FTX executives were charged with federal felonies and at least two have pled guilty, admitting that FTX and its affiliates defrauded many, including its own customers and commercial counterparties like the Debtors.⁵
- 3. Notwithstanding having to start from scratch, less than three months later, the Debtors stand ready to confirm the Plan. The Plan contemplates a sale of substantially all of the Debtors' assets to BAM Trading Services Inc. ("Binance.US" or "Purchaser" and such transaction, the "Sale Transaction") following around-the-clock negotiations on the heels of FTX's collapse. Moreover, the Plan includes the "toggle" transaction, which ensures the Debtors the opportunity to exit these chapter 11 cases regardless of whether the Sale Transaction ultimately closes.

See Declaration of John J. Ray III in Support of Chapter 11 Petitions and First Day Pleadings, filed in In re FTX Trading Ltd., No. 22-11068 (Bankr. D. Del. Nov. 11, 2022) at Docket No. 24, ¶¶ 5, 23, 65, 71 ("Never in my career have I seen such a complete failure of corporate controls and such a complete absence of trustworthy financial information as occurred here. From compromised systems integrity and faulty regulatory oversight abroad, to the concentration of control in the hands of a very small group of inexperienced, unsophisticated and potentially compromised individuals, this situation is unprecedented . . . Alameda Research LLC prepared consolidated financial statements on a quarterly basis. To my knowledge, none of these financial statements have been audited. The September 30, 2022 balance sheet for the Alameda Silo shows \$13.46 billion in total assets as of its date. However, because this balance sheet was unaudited and produced while the Debtors were controlled by Mr. Bankman-Fried, I do not have confidence in it and the information therein may not be correct as of the date stated . . . The FTX Group did not keep appropriate books and records, or security controls, with respect to its digital assets. Mr. Bankman-Fried and Mr. Wang controlled access to digital assets of the main businesses in the FTX Group (with the exception of LedgerX, regulated by the CFTC, and certain other regulated and/or licensed subsidiaries). Unacceptable management practices included the use of an unsecured group email account as the root user to access confidential private keys and critically sensitive data for the FTX Group companies around the world, the absence of daily reconciliation of positions on the blockchain, the use of software to conceal the misuse of customer funds, the secret exemption of Alameda from certain aspects of FTX.com's auto-liquidation protocol, and the absence of independent governance as between Alameda (owned 90% by Mr. Bankman-Fried and 10% by Mr. Wang) and the Dotcom Silo (in which third parties had invested) . . . One of the most pervasive failures of the FTX.com business in particular is the absence of lasting records of decision-making. Mr. Bankman-Fried often communicated by using applications that were set to auto-delete after a short period of time, and encouraged employees to do the same.").

See, e.g., United States v. Samuel Bankman-Fried, Caroline Ellison, and Gary Wang, No. 22-cr-673 (RA) (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 19, 2022), Hr'g Tr. 28:9–21.

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 17 of 135

- 4. The Plan, which is supported by the Committee, most importantly enjoys the support of more than 97 percent of Account Holders in number and 98 percent of Account Holder Claims in amount actually voting. At the time of the filing of these chapter 11 cases, the Debtors had more than 1 million customers. The Plan itself will effectuate the expeditious sale of the Debtors' customer accounts to Binance.US, provide a meaningful in-kind recovery to creditors on the shortest practicable timeline, and allow for an efficient resolution to these chapter 11 cases. Following consummation of the Sale Transaction, the Plan provides for the orderly wind down of the Debtors' estates. The Plan also allows the Debtors to toggle to the Liquidation Transaction if the Debtors determine, in their business judgment, that the Sale Transaction is no longer viable.
- 5. The Plan is a significant achievement; it consensually resolves a number of highly complex and intricate issues in a manner that is overwhelmingly supported by the Voting Classes. The Plan is in the best interests of the Debtors' estates, is by far the best alternative for all stakeholders, and should be confirmed.
- 6. Before the Petition Date, the Debtors commenced a marketing process for an investment in, or a sale of the Debtors' business to, a third-party purchaser. Discussions with interested parties, however, revealed that an in-court process would be necessary to yield the most value-maximizing transaction available to the Debtors. Accordingly, the Debtors commenced these chapter 11 cases and continued their marketing efforts postpetition.⁶

See generally, First Day Declaration; Declaration of Jared Dermont Regarding the Debtors' Marketing Process and in Support of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Petitions and First Day Motions [Docket No. 16]; Declaration of Brian Tichenor in Support of the Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order (I) Authorizing Entry into the Asset Purchase Agreement, and (II) Granting Related Relief [Docket No. 476]; Declaration of Brian Tichenor in Support of the Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order (I) Authorizing Entry into the Binance US Purchase Agreement, and (II) Granting Related Relief [Docket No. 836] (the "Tichenor APA Declaration").

- 7. The Debtors and their advisors left no stone unturned. Moelis & Company LLC ("Moelis"), the Debtors' investment banker, reached out to 96 strategic investors and financial sponsors, many of which had significant experience in the cryptocurrency industry. 60 parties executed non-disclosure agreements and were provided with access to a virtual data room containing comprehensive information regarding the Debtors' business operations and financial position. The virtual data room was robust, supplemented throughout the marketing process, and hosted thousands of diligence items. Moelis also held virtual diligence sessions with the Debtors, their management team, and multiple interested parties.
- 8. On the first day of these chapter 11 cases, the Debtors filed the *Joint Plan of Reorganization of Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc. and Its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code* [Docket No. 17] (the "Standalone Plan"). The Standalone Plan served as a floor for the marketing process. Shortly thereafter, the Debtors filed the *Debtors' Motion Seeking Entry of an Order (I) Approving the Bidding Procedures and Related Dates and Deadlines, (II) Scheduling Hearings and Objection Deadlines with Respect to the Debtors' Sale, Disclosure Statement, and Plan Confirmation, and (III) Granting Related Relief* [Docket No. 126] (the "Bidding Procedures Motion," and the bidding procedures established therein, the "Bidding Procedures"),7 which set a timeline for interested parties to submit bids for an acquisition of the Debtors' assets and procedures for conducting an auction if multiple bids were received.
- 9. The Debtors' marketing process yielded bids from numerous strategic parties. Accordingly, on September 13, 2022, the Debtors commenced an auction (the "Auction") to

The Court approved the Bidding Procedures Motion on August 5, 2022. See Order (I) Approving the Bidding Procedures, (II) Scheduling the Bid Deadlines and the Auction, (III) Approving the Form and Manner of Notice Thereof, (IV) Scheduling Hearings and Objection Deadlines with Respect to the Debtors' Sale, Disclosure Statement, and Plan Confirmation, and (V) Granting Related Relief [Docket No. 248].

determine the winning bid. The two-week Auction consisted of arm's-length negotiations with each participating bidder. At the conclusion of the Auction, West Realm Shires Inc. ("<u>FTX US</u>," and along with its parent entity and affiliates, "FTX") was announced as the winning bidder.

- 10. On October 20, 2022, the Court entered an *Order Authorizing Entry into the Asset Purchase Agreement* [Docket No. 581] (the "FTX Purchase Agreement," and the transaction contemplated thereby, the "FTX Transaction"). Details of the FTX Transaction were set forth in the Debtors' *First Amended Disclosure Statement Relating to the Second Amended Joint Plan of Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc. and Its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code* [Docket No. 498] (the "FTX Disclosure Statement"). The Debtors contemplated effectuating the FTX Transaction pursuant to the *Second Amended Joint Plan of Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc. and Its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code* [Docket No. 590] (the "FTX Plan"). The Court entered an order approving the adequacy of the FTX Disclosure Statement on October 21, 2022,8 and solicitation for acceptance or rejection of the FTX Plan commenced shortly thereafter. A confirmation hearing was scheduled for December 8, 2022. But just two weeks after solicitation commenced, it became evident that any transaction with FTX would be unattainable.
- 11. Shortly after public reports emerged drawing concern around FTX and the legitimacy of its operations, over 100 FTX entities commenced filing for voluntary relief under chapter 11 in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware on November 11, 2022 (the "FTX Bankruptcy Proceeding"). FTX US, the contemplated purchaser under the FTX Transaction, filed for chapter 11 three days later on November 14, 2022.

⁸ Docket No. 586.

The FTX Bankruptcy Proceeding is jointly administered under *In re FTX Trading Ltd.*, Case No. 22-11068 (JTD) (Bankr. D. Del. Nov. 11, 2022).

- 12. As FTX's ability to close the FTX Transaction became unclear, on November 10, 2022, the Debtors requested that FTX waive the "No-Shop" provision (Section 5.2) of the FTX Purchase Agreement. FTX, through its counsel, agreed. On January 9, 2023, the court overseeing the FTX Bankruptcy Proceeding entered an order approving the termination of the FTX Purchase Agreement.¹⁰ On January 10, 2023, the Court entered a similar order.¹¹
- 13. While the Debtors were shocked and dismayed by FTX's cataclysmic collapse, they swiftly reengaged in negotiations with other potential counterparties to evaluate alternative transactions that would maximize value for the Debtors and their creditors.
- 14. As the Court is aware, the Debtors had already conducted a comprehensive marketing process that resulted in a two-week Auction and leveraged those prior efforts to move quickly toward agreement with an alternative bidder. Some of the parties that the Debtors engaged with following the FTX collapse were previously involved in the marketing process. Several new parties also expressed interest. When analyzing proposals received from interested parties, the Debtors and their advisors considered both the viability and risk factors associated with each proposed transaction, including timing considerations, third-party financing requirements, ability to consummate, cybersecurity risks, regulatory and licensing status, and counterparty risk based on the Debtors' reverse due diligence conducted during the one-month negotiation period.
- 15. Notably, the Debtors and their advisors contemplated pursuing the Liquidation Transaction. But they ultimately concluded that working to identify a transaction with a third party could provide greater value for creditors and less implementation risk.

Order (A) Authorizing the Debtors to Enter into the Stipulation with Voyager Digital, LLC and (B) Granting Related Relief [Docket No. 423], filed in In re FTX Trading Ltd., Case No. 22-11068 (JTD) (Bankr. D. Del. Jan. 9, 2023).

Joint Stipulation and Agreed Order Between the Debtors and FTX US [Docket No. 848].

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 21 of 135

16. Following good-faith, arm's-length negotiations with several parties, the Debtors determined that, based on the information they have to date, the transaction proposed by Binance.US was the highest or otherwise best offer available for the Debtors' assets. On December 18, 2022, the Debtors and the Purchaser entered into an asset purchase agreement memorializing the terms of the Binance.US bid (as may be amended from time to time in accordance with the terms thereof, the "Asset Purchase Agreement"). On January 13, 2023, the Court entered an order authorizing the Debtors' entry into the Asset Purchase Agreement (the "APA Order"). 12

17. The Debtors value the Sale Transaction at approximately \$1.022 billion, comprising (i) the value of cryptocurrency on the Voyager platform as of a date to be determined, which as of December 19, 2022, at 0:00 UTC, is estimated to be \$1.002 billion, plus (ii) additional consideration, which is estimated to provide at least \$20 million. The Sale Transaction also includes additional benefits to creditors: (i) it provides the most tax efficient route forward as Binance.US supports 100% of the cryptocurrency coins on the Debtors' platform, (ii) it is the only transaction available to the Debtors that did not require the Debtors to liquidate cryptocurrency for working capital purposes, (iii) it includes reimbursement by Binance.US of up to \$15 million of Seller's expenses, and (iv) it provides a \$10 million reverse termination fee payable to the Seller by Binance.US to compensate the Debtors' estates in the event that Binance.US cannot consummate the transaction. Additionally, and to protect against any further delay in exiting these chapter 11 cases, the Sale Transaction permits the Debtors to pivot to the Liquidation Transaction if they determine it is a prudent exercise of their fiduciary duties and provides that Binance.US will offer certain services to facilitate the Liquidation Transaction.

See Order (I) Authorizing Entry Into The Binance US Purchase Agreement and (II) Granting Related Relief, ¶ 13 [Docket No. 860].

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 22 of 135

- 18. The Plan seeks to consummate the Sale Transaction on the shortest practicable timeline. However, the Asset Purchase Agreement contains a standard "fiduciary out" that allows the Debtors to terminate the Asset Purchase Agreement and toggle *either* to a higher and better third-party bid (should one emerge) *or* to the Liquidation Transaction if the Debtors determine, in their business judgment, that consummating the Sale Transaction is no longer the highest and best option or that doing so is otherwise inconsistent with their fiduciary duties. Nevertheless, based on the information that the Debtors have at hand, they believe that the Sale Transaction is the most value-maximizing transaction available to the Debtors.
- 19. The Debtors engaged with the U.S. Trustee, the Committee, and a number of parties who submitted informal Objections and comments to the Plan in an effort to consensually resolve all parties' Objections to the Plan and Disclosure Statement. The Objections generally argue, among other things, that: (i) the Plan and Disclosure Statement fail to disclose adequate information regarding the Sale Transaction, Binance. US's financial condition and solvency, the feasibility of the Sale Transaction, the transfer of Account Holders and cryptocurrency to Binance.US, and the financial consequences of the Plan; (ii) the rebalancing contemplated by the Plan may contravene applicable law; (iii) the Plan's Releases and Injunction provisions are improper; (iv) the Plan and Confirmation Order should clarify the impact the Plan will have on Intercompany Claims and the nature of the Releases, provide that Existing Equity Interests under the Plan will not be cancelled, and provide that the Wind-Down Debtor is not the only party permitted to object to Proofs of Claim; and (v) the Plan unfairly discriminates against Holders of Account Holder Claims in Unsupported Jurisdictions relative to Account Holders in Supported Jurisdictions (each as defined in the Asset Purchase Agreement). Certain customers also raise various issues with, inter alia, the composition of the Committee, the relationship between the

Committee and the Debtors, the conduct of the Court, and the legal status of cryptocurrency held of the Debtors' platform, that do not present barriers to confirmation of the Plan. The Bank of New York Mellon ("BNY") also filed an Objection (the "BNY Objection")¹³ on behalf of Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing ("Shellpoint") asserting that Shellpoint holds a mortgage claim secured against a property in Irvine, California, title to which BNY asserts is held by the Debtors, that is not properly addressed in the Plan.

None of the Objections have merit, and the Plan should be confirmed. First, the 20. Plan, Disclosure Statement, and other Definitive Documents contain adequate information regarding the Restructuring Transactions. **Second**, the rebalancing contemplated by the Plan does not contravene any applicable law or regulatory ruling that has actually been issued, and the Rebalancing Exercise has already begun following approval by the Court. ¹⁴ *Third*, the third-party Releases are fully consensual, opt-in only, and compliant with the Bankruptcy Code and case law in this Circuit, and the Debtor Release is a sound exercise of the Debtors' business judgment following the Special Committee's findings and contributions by the Released Parties to the chapter 11 cases. The Debtors have also added certain language to the Confirmation Order to address and clarify specific issues raised by certain objecting parties with respect to the Third-Party Releases and Debtor Releases. Fourth, the Confirmation Order and Plan have been amended to add language clarifying (i) the nature of the Releases and that the treatment of Intercompany Claims will be determined by the Court, (ii) that Existing Equity Interests will not be cancelled, and (iii) that any party in interest may object to Proofs of Claim. Fifth, the classification scheme in the Plan is compliant with the Bankruptcy Code, the Plan does not violate the absolute priority

¹³ Docket No. 1078.

¹⁴ *Id*.

rule, and the Plan is fair and equitable. *Sixth*, the argument that Holders of Account Holder Claims in Unsupported Jurisdictions are receiving disparate treatment fails because each Holder of an Account Holder Claim is receiving a recovery based on the "dollarized" amount of such Claim as of the Petition Date, and any delay in distributions is a product of a few outlier states' choices, not the Plan itself. Accordingly, there is no unfair discrimination. *Seventh*, the other issues raised by the Customer Objections do not present barriers to confirmation of the Plan and should be overruled on that basis. *Finally*, the Debtors believe that the BNY Objection is resolved pursuant to language added to the Confirmation Order. ¹⁵

21. The Plan maximizes the value of the Debtors' assets, enables the expeditious distribution of cryptocurrency to customers, and provides for the orderly wind down of the Debtors' remaining estates. For these reasons, and as set forth more fully in this Memorandum, the Objections should be overruled and the Plan should be confirmed.

Argument

22. This Memorandum is divided into four parts. Part I provides the procedural history of the Plan and Disclosure Statement, the Debtors' solicitation efforts and voting results, and a summary of the various Objections filed with respect to the Plan and Disclosure Statement.

Part II requests that the Court approve the Disclosure Statement on a final basis and find that the Debtors have satisfied all notice requirements approved in the Disclosure Statement Order.

Part III establishes the Plan's compliance with each of the applicable requirements for Confirmation, including that certain of the discretionary contents of the Plan, including the Releases, are appropriate and should be approved. Part IV establishes that the Objections to the

¹⁵ See Confirmation Order ¶ 152.

Plan should be overruled. In further support of Confirmation of the Plan, the Debtors have filed contemporaneously herewith:

- the Declaration of Leticia Sanchez Regarding the Solicitation and Tabulation of Votes on the Third Amended Joint Plan of Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc. and Its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code (the "Voting Report");16
- the Declaration of Brian Tichenor in Support of Confirmation of the Third Amended Joint Plan of Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc. and Its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code (the "Tichenor Declaration");
- the Declaration of Mark A. Renzi in Support of Confirmation of the Third Amended Joint Plan of Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc. and Its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code (the "Renzi Declaration"); and
- the Declaration of Timothy R. Pohl, Independent Director and Member of the Special Committee of the Board of Directors of Voyager Digital, LLC, in Support of Confirmation of the Third Amended Joint Plan of Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc. and Its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code (the "Pohl Declaration" and, together with the Voting Report, the Tichenor Declaration, and the Renzi Declaration, the "Declarations").
- 23. For the reasons stated herein, the Debtors respectfully request that the Court find that the Debtors have satisfied all relevant burdens, approve the Disclosure Statement on a final basis, and approve the Plan.

I. Case Background and Objections

A. Procedural History.

24. On July 6, 2022, the Debtors filed with the Court, among other pleadings, the *Joint Plan of Reorganization of Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc. and Its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code* [Docket No. 17]. On August 3, 2022, the Court entered the *Order (I) Setting Deadlines for Submitting Proofs of Claim, (II) Approving Procedures for Submitting Proofs of Claim, and (III) Approving Notice Thereof* [Docket No. 218] (the "Bar Date"

¹⁶ Docket No. 1108.

Order"), which established October 3, 2022, as the General Claims Bar Date and January 3, 2023, as the Governmental Bar Date and provided that any Holder of a Claim that fails to timely submit a Proof of Claim by the applicable bar date shall not be treated as a creditor with respect to such claim for the purposes of either (a) voting on any plan of reorganization filed in these chapter 11 cases or (b) participating in any distribution in the Debtors' chapter 11 cases on account of such Claim.

- 25. On August 12, 2022, the Debtors filed the First Amended Joint Plan of Reorganization of Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc. and Its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code [Docket No. 287] and the Disclosure Statement Relating to the First Amended Joint Plan of Reorganization of Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc. and Its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code [Docket No. 288] (as amended, modified, or supplemented from time to time, the "Initial Disclosure Statement"), and the Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order Approving (I) the Adequacy of the Disclosure Statement, (II) Solicitation and Notice Procedures, (III) Forms of Ballots and Notices in Connection Therewith, and (IV) Certain Dates With Respect Thereto [Docket No. 289].
- 26. On October 5, 2022, the Debtors filed the Second Amended Joint Plan of Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc. and Its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code [Docket No. 496] (the "Second Amended Plan")¹⁷ and the First Amended Disclosure Statement Relating to the Second Amended Joint Plan of Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc. and Its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code [Docket No. 498] (the "First Amended

The Debtors filed revised versions of the Second Amended Plan at Docket Nos. 539, 564, 584, and 590.

<u>Disclosure Statement</u>"). ¹⁸ On October 19, 2022, the Debtors filed the proposed *Order Approving* (*I*) the Adequacy of the Disclosure Statement, (*II*) Solicitation and Notice Procedures, (*III*) Forms of Ballots and Notices in Connection Therewith, and (*IV*) Certain Dates With Respect Thereto [Docket No. 563]. On October 20, 2022, the Court entered an order approving the Debtors' entry into the Asset Purchase Agreement [Docket No. 581], and on October 21, 2022, the Court entered an order approving the Initial Disclosure Statement. ¹⁹

27. Following the collapse of the FTX Transaction and the Debtors' subsequent negotiations with Binance.US, on December 18, 2022, the Debtors and Binance.US entered into the Asset Purchase Agreement [Docket No. 748].²⁰ On December 22, 2022, the Debtors filed the Third Amended Joint Plan of Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc. and Its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code [Docket No. 777]²¹ and the Second Amended Disclosure Statement Relating to the Third Amended Joint Plan of Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc. and Its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code [Docket No. 778],²² and the Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order (I) Scheduling a Combined Disclosure Statement Approval and Plan Confirmation Hearing, (II) Conditionally Approving the Adequacy of the Debtors' Disclosure Statement, (III) Approving (A) Procedures for Solicitation, (B) Forms of Ballots and

The Debtors subsequently filed revised versions of the First Amended Disclosure Statement at Docket Nos. 540, 565, 585, and 591.

See Order Approving (I) the Adequacy of the Disclosure Statement, (II) the Solicitation and Notice Procedures, (III) the Forms of Ballots and Notices in Connection Therewith, and (IV) Certain Dates with Respect Thereto [Docket No. 586].

²⁰ See Notice of Successful Bidder.

The Debtors subsequently filed revised versions of the *Third Amended Joint Plan of Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc. and Its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code* at Docket Nos. 829 and 852.

The Debtors subsequently filed a revised version of the Second Amended Disclosure Statement Relating to the Third Amended Joint Plan of Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc. and Its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code at Docket Nos. 830, 853, and 863.

Notices, (C) Procedures for Tabulation of Votes and (D) Procedures for Objections, and (IV) Granting Related Relief [Docket No. 779] (the "Disclosure Statement Motion"). On January 13, 2023, the Court entered an order [Docket No. 861] (the "Disclosure Statement Order") (i) conditionally approving the adequacy of the Disclosure Statement, (ii) scheduling a combined hearing to consider confirmation of the Plan and approval of the Disclosure Statement on a final basis, and (iii) approving (a) the Solicitation and Voting Procedures; (b) certain notices and certain dates and deadlines in connection with solicitation and confirmation of the Plan; and (c) the manner and form of the Solicitation Packages and the materials contained therein.

- 28. The Debtors now intend to implement the Sale Transaction to sell substantially all of the Debtors' assets through confirmation of the Plan. The Plan, among other things:
 - contemplates payment in full of Administrative Claims, Secured Tax Claims, Priority Tax Claims, and Other Priority Claims;
 - provides for the distribution of Cryptocurrency, Cash, and any remaining assets at OpCo (including any recovery on account of the 3AC Claims, FTX Claims, or Alameda Claims) to Account Holders and Holders of OpCo General Unsecured Claims subject to the terms of the Asset Purchase Agreement;
 - provides for distribution of Cash and other assets at HoldCo to Holders of HoldCo General Unsecured Claims:
 - provides for distribution of Cash and other assets at TopCo to Holders of TopCo General Unsecured Claims;
 - provides for the treatment of Alameda Loan Facility Claims pursuant to the FTX Settlement or, if the FTX Settlement²³ does not go effective, the equitable subordination of the Alameda Loan Facility Claims or, if such claims are not equitably subordinated, treatment of the Alameda Loan Facility Claims *pari passu* with General Unsecured Claims at the applicable Debtor entity;
 - provides for any residual value at TopCo after payment in full of TopCo General Unsecured Claims to be distributed to Holders of Section 510(b) Claims, if any, and Holders of Existing Equity Interests;

²³ See Docket No. 1106.

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 29 of 135

provides for Intercompany Claims to be treated as determined by the Court; and

• designates a Plan Administrator to wind down the Debtors' affairs in accordance with the Plan.

29. On or about January 25, 2023, the Debtors caused the Claims, Noticing, and Solicitation Agent, to serve the Solicitation Packages and the Combined Hearing Notice in accordance with the terms of the Disclosure Statement Order.²⁴ The Debtors also caused the Publication Notice (as defined in the Disclosure Statement Order) to be published in *The New York Times* and the *Financial Times* on February 1, 2023, and February 2, 2023, respectively, as evidenced by each *Affidavit of Service of Publication*.²⁵

30. On February 1, 2023, the Debtors filed the Plan Supplement,²⁶ which included the Schedule of Assumed Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases, and served notices of assumption on each of the counterparties to Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases whose Executory Contracts or Unexpired Leases are being assumed pursuant to the Plan.²⁷ On February 8, 2023, the Debtors filed the *First Amended Plan Supplement*,²⁸ which included the Schedule of Retained Causes of Action and the Customer Onboarding Protocol. On February 15, 2023, the Debtors filed the *Second Amended Plan Supplement*,²⁹ which included (a) the Amended Schedule of Assumed Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases, (b) the Restructuring Transactions Memorandum, (c) the identity of the Plan Administrator and Oversight Committee, (d) the Plan

²⁴ See Affidavit of Service [Docket No. 926] (the "Affidavit of Solicitation").

²⁵ Docket Nos. 954 & 955.

²⁶ Docket No. 943.

²⁷ Docket No. 951.

²⁸ Docket No. 986.

²⁹ Docket No. 1006.

Administrator Agreement, (e) the Wind-Down Budget, and (f) the Employee Transition Plan. On February 21, 2023, the Debtors filed the *Third Amended Plan Supplement*,³⁰ which included (a) the Amended Schedule of Assumed Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases; and (b) the Customer Onboarding Protocol.

31. The deadline (a) to file objections to the Plan and final approval of the Disclosure Statement and (b) for all Holders of Claims and Interests entitled to vote on the Plan to cast their ballots was February 22, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., prevailing Eastern Time. The Combined Hearing is scheduled for March 2, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., prevailing Eastern Time. Concurrently with this Memorandum, the Debtors have submitted the proposed *Order Confirming the Second Amended Joint Plan of Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc. and Its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code* (the "Proposed Confirmation Order"), which contemplates, among other things, approval of the Disclosure Statement on a final basis and confirmation of the Plan.

B. The Restructuring Transactions.

32. The Restructuring Transactions set forth in the Plan, the Restructuring Transactions Memorandum, and the Customer Onboarding Protocol provide for, among other things, (a) all transactions necessary to effectuate the purchase of the Acquired Assets by Purchaser under the Asset Purchase Agreement; (b) the transfer or distribution of any Cryptocurrency or Cash pursuant to the Asset Purchase Agreement or the Liquidation Procedures, as applicable; (c) the execution and delivery of the Plan Administrator Agreement; (d) the transactions necessary or appropriate to form the Wind-Down Debtor; and (e) all other actions that the applicable Entities determine to be necessary or appropriate, or that are reasonably requested by the Purchaser in accordance with the Asset Purchase Agreement, including making filings or recordings that may be required by

³⁰ Docket No. 1035.

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 31 of 135

applicable law. As discussed above, the Restructuring Transactions contemplate the sale of substantially all of the Debtors' assets to Binance.US pursuant to the Sale Transaction but allow the Debtors to toggle to the Liquidation Transaction if the Debtors determine, in their business judgment, that the Sale Transaction is no longer the best path forward for the Debtors' creditors.

1. The Sale Transaction.

- 33. The Asset Purchase Agreement provides that, in the event of a Sale Transaction, Binance.US will accept transfers of certain assets relating to the Debtors' cryptocurrency custody and exchange business and will receive all or substantially all Cryptocurrency on the Voyager platform to hold such assets solely in a custodial capacity in trust and solely for the benefit of Account Holders who each open an account on the Binance.US Platform (such Cryptocurrency transfers, the "Acquired Coins") in exchange for Purchaser's payment obligations and commitment to distribute the Acquired Coins to Account Holders and cash to Holders of Opco General Unsecured Claims pursuant to the Asset Purchase Agreement. Following the sale to Binance.US, the Plan Administrator shall wind down the Wind-Down Debtor's affairs in accordance with Article IV.H of the Plan. Additionally, Purchaser shall submit VGX for its standard listing review process in an effort to allow VGX to be traded on the Binance.US Platform. It is currently anticipated that all Account Holders and Holders of OpCo General Unsecured Claims in Supported Jurisdictions will transition to Binance.US subject to their successful completion of Binance. US's "Know Your Customer" process and other procedural and regulatory requirements.
- 34. As described in greater detail in Article VI.B of the Plan, the Debtors will effectuate the transition of Account Holders to the Binance.US platform pursuant to the Customer Onboarding Protocol, which was included in the Plan Supplement. The Customer Onboarding Protocol provides, among other things, that if any Account Holder or Holder of an Allowed OpCo

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 32 of 135

General Unsecured Claim does not become a Transferred Creditor prior to the date that is three months following the later of the Effective Date or the date on which the terms and conditions for the Binance.US Platform are made available for such person to accept (as provided in the Customer Onboarding Protocol), then the Debtors will transfer the cryptocurrency allocable to such person to the Purchaser, the Purchaser will convert such cryptocurrency into U.S. Dollars at the then-prevailing rates (including applicable fees, spreads, costs, and expenses) on the Binance.US Platform and deliver such U.S. Dollars, together with any cash or others assets in respect of such persons, to the Debtors within five business days for further distribution by the Debtors in accordance with the Plan and the Customer Onboarding Protocol.

2. The Liquidation Transaction.

35. If the parties are unable to consummate the Sale Transaction by the Outside Date or if the Debtors determine to utilize their "fiduciary out" pursuant to the Asset Purchase Agreement, the Debtors will pursue the Liquidation Transaction in accordance with the Liquidation Procedures. Under the Liquidation Transaction, the Debtors, the Wind-Down Debtor, or the Plan Administrator, as applicable, will distribute certain Cryptocurrency in-kind to Holders of Account Holder Claims in accordance with Article III.C of the Plan, transfer all Wind-Down Debtor Assets³¹ to the Wind-Down Debtor, liquidate certain Cryptocurrency, distribute Cash to

Pursuant to the Plan, "Wind-Down Debtor Assets" means any assets of the Debtors' assets transferred to, and vesting in, the Wind-Down Debtor pursuant to the Plan Administrator Agreement, which, in the event the Sale Transaction is consummated, shall exclude the Acquired Assets, and which shall include, without limitation but only to the extent the following are not Acquired Assets, (a) the Wind-Down Reserve, (b) the Net-Owed Coins to be distributed to Account Holders in Supported Jurisdictions until such Account Holders complete the Purchaser's onboarding requirements in accordance with the Asset Purchase Agreement, (c) the Net-Owed Coins to be distributed to Account Holders in Unsupported Jurisdictions to the extent the Purchaser has not obtained the applicable Unsupported Jurisdiction Approval in accordance with Section 6.12 of the Asset Purchase Agreement, (d) any distributions to Account Holders or Holders of OpCo General Unsecured Claims that are returned to the Wind-Down Debtor pursuant to Section 6.12(e) of the Asset Purchase Agreement, (e) 3AC Claims and 3AC Recovery, (f) FTX Claims and FTX Recovery, (g) Alameda Claims and Alameda Recovery, (h) the Non Released D&O Claims, and (h) the Vested Causes of Action. Plan, Art.I.A.175.

Holders of Claims, wind down and dissolve the Debtors, and pursue final administration of the Debtors' Estates pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code. In order to effectuate *pro rata* in-kind distributions, the Plan contemplates that the Debtors, in consultation with the Committee, shall be authorized to rebalance their Cryptocurrency portfolio by, among other things, selling Cryptocurrency that cannot be distributed to Account Holders and purchasing Cryptocurrency supported by the Debtors' platform to be distributed to Account Holders.

3. The Wind-Down.

36. As set forth in greater detail in Article IV.H of the Plan, on the Effective Date of the Plan, the Wind-Down Debtor Assets shall, subject to the Plan Administrator Agreement, be transferred to and vest in the Wind-Down Debtor. The Wind-Down Debtor will conduct no business operations and will be charged with winding down the Debtors' Estates and shall be managed by the Plan Administrator and subject to the Wind-Down Debtor Oversight Committee. Among other things, the Plan Administrator will be charged with: (a) implementing the Wind-Down Debtor and making the distributions contemplated by the Plan; (b) marshalling, marketing for sale, and winding down any of the Debtors' assets constituting Wind-Down Debtor Assets; (c) appointing an independent director at each Debtor to act as a fiduciary for such Debtor entity in connection with the resolution of Intercompany Claims; (d) filing and prosecuting any objections to Claims or Interests or settling or otherwise compromising such Claims and Interests, if necessary and appropriate; (e) commencing, prosecuting, or settling claims and Vested Causes of Action; (f) recovering and compelling turnover of the Debtors' property; (g) prosecuting and settling the 3AC Claims, FTX Claims, and Alameda Claims; (h) preparing and filing post-Effective Date operating reports; and (i) taking such actions as are necessary and reasonable to wind down the remaining estate. The Wind-Down Debtor will be managed by the Plan Administrator and will be subject to a Wind-Down Debtor Oversight Committee as set forth in greater detail in Article IV.H.6 of the Plan. Following completion of the Plan Administrator's duties, the Wind-Down Debtor will be dissolved in accordance with the Plan Administrator Agreement.

C. The Plan Solicitation and Notification Process.

37. In compliance with the Bankruptcy Code, only Holders of Claims and Interests in Impaired Classes receiving or retaining property on account of such Claims or Interests were entitled to vote on the Plan.³² Holders of Claims and Interests were not entitled to vote if their rights are Unimpaired or if they are not receiving or retaining any property under the Plan. The following Classes of Claims and Interests were *not* entitled to vote on the Plan, and the Debtors did not solicit votes from Holders of such Claims and Interests:

Class	Claim or Interest	<u>Status</u>	<u>Voting Rights</u>
1	Secured Tax Claims	Unimpaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Deemed to Accept)
2	Other Priority Claims	Unimpaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Deemed to Accept)
5	Alameda Loan Facility Claims	Impaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Deemed to Reject)
6	Section 510(b) Claims	Impaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Deemed to Reject)
7	Intercompany Claims	Unimpaired / Impaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)
8	Intercompany Interests	Unimpaired / Impaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)
9	Existing Equity Interests	Impaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Deemed to Reject)

38. The Debtors solicited votes on the Plan from Holders of Claims and Interests in Classes 3, 4A, 4B, and 4C, which were entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan (collectively, the "<u>Voting Classes</u>"). The voting results, as reflected in the Voting Report, are summarized as follows:

³² See 11 U.S.C. § 1126.

Class	Class Description	Number Accepting	Number Rejecting	Amount Accepting (%)	Amount Rejecting (%)	Voting Result
3	Account Holder Claims	58,969	2,112	98	2	Accept
4A	OpCo General Unsecured Claims	0	0	0	0	N/A
4B	HoldCo General Unsecured Claims	4	1	100	0	Accept
4C	TopCo General Unsecured Claims	9	1	100	0	Accept

- 39. The Debtors strongly believe that the Plan is in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates, and other parties in interest. And as shown above, Account Holders overwhelmingly agree—97 percent of Account Holders and 98 percent in amount of Account Holder Claims actually voting voted in favor of the Plan. Further, 80 percent of HoldCo General Unsecured Claims and 100 percent in amount of HoldCo General Unsecured Claims actually voting, and 90 percent of Holders of TopCo General Unsecured Claims and 100 percent in amount of TopCo General Unsecured Claims actually voting voted to accept the Plan. The Debtors did not receive any votes from Holders of OpCo General Unsecured Claims.
- 40. The transactions contemplated by the Plan represent a significant achievement for the Debtors and are the direct result of a thorough marketing process. Each of the Debtors strongly believes that the Plan is in the best interests of its estate and represents the best available alternative for all of its stakeholders. The voting results demonstrate that the vast majority of stakeholders agree. The transactions embodied in the Plan will maximize the value of the Estates and maximize recoveries to Holders of Claims and Interests.

D. The Objections.

41. Formal Objections were filed by (i) the Federal Trade Commission (the "FTC," and such Objection, the "FTC Objection");³³ (ii) the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC," and such Objection, the "SEC Objection");³⁴ (iii) an ad hoc group of equity holders (the "AHG"), which filed an Objection and a supplemental Objection, (such Objections, collectively, the "AHG Objection");³⁵ (iv) the New York State Department of Financial Services (the "New York," and such Objection, the "New York Objection");³⁶ (v) Daniel Newsom and Jon Warren ("Newsom and Warren," and such Objection, the "Newsom and Warren Objection");³⁷ (vi) Tracy Hendershott, Seth Jones, and Trevor Brucker ("Hendershott et al.," and such Objection, the "Hendershott et al. Objection");³⁸ (vii) Alah Shehadeh ("Mr. Shehadeh"), who filed several letters (the "Shehadeh Letters"),³⁹ a motion to change venue or judge in these chapter 11 cases (the "Shehadeh Motion"),⁴⁰ and a motion accusing the Debtors of fraud and their counsel of ethical violations (the "Shehadeh Fraud Motion");⁴¹ (viii) Shehadeh, Rawand Salah, Yousef Qasem, and Seth Jones (such objection the "Shehadeh Claims Objection," and, along with the Shehadeh Letters, the Shehadeh Motion, and the Shehadeh Fraud Motion, the "Shehadeh

³³ Docket No. 1042.

³⁴ Docket No. 1047.

³⁵ Docket Nos. 1050 & 1097.

³⁶ Docket No. 1051.

³⁷ Docket No. 1059.

³⁸ Docket No. 1061.

³⁹ Docket Nos. 1063 & 1066.

⁴⁰ Docket No. 1072.

⁴¹ Docket No. 1082.

<u>Papers</u>"); (ix) BNY; (x) the U.S. Trustee (such objection, the "<u>U.S. Trustee Objection</u>");⁴² (xi) the Texas State Securities Board and the Texas Department of Banking (collectively, "<u>Texas</u>," and such Objection, the "<u>Texas Objection</u>");⁴³ and (xii) the New Jersey Bureau of Securities ("<u>New Jersey</u>," and such Objection, the "New Jersey Objection").⁴⁴

- 42. While the Objections are listed below, it bears noting that the Plan has a massive amount of consensus. Again, more than 97 percent of Account Holders in number and 98 percent of Account Holders in amount actually voting voted in favor of the Plan. The Debtors have more than 1 million customers and only 8, whose claims, in aggregate, total approximately \$500,000, objected to the Plan. The Debtors continue to work to resolve all outstanding Objections in advance of the Combined Hearing. To the extent the Debtors are unable to consensually resolve such Objections prior to the Combined Hearing, the Debtors request that the Court overrule such Objections. A detailed response to each of the outstanding Objections is set forth in section IV of this Memorandum.
- II. The Disclosure Statement Contains "Adequate Information" as Required by Section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code, and the Debtors Complied with the Applicable Notice Requirements.
 - A. The Disclosure Statement Contains Adequate Information.
- 43. The primary purpose of a disclosure statement is to provide "adequate information" that allows parties entitled to vote on a proposed plan to make an informed decision as to whether to vote to accept or reject the plan.⁴⁵ "Adequate information" is a flexible standard, based on the

⁴² Docket No. 1085.

⁴³ Docket No. 1086.

⁴⁴ Docket No. 1087.

See, e.g., In re Momentum Mfg. Corp., 25 F.3d 1132, 1136 (2d Cir. 1994); In re Ionosphere Clubs, Inc., 179 B.R.
 24, 29 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1995) (adequacy of a disclosure statement "is to be determined on a case-specific basis under a flexible standard that can promote the policy of chapter 11 towards fair settlement through a negotiation

facts and circumstances of each case.⁴⁶ Courts within the Second Circuit and elsewhere acknowledge that determining what constitutes "adequate information" for the purpose of satisfying section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code resides within the broad discretion of the court.⁴⁷

- 44. Courts look for certain information when evaluating the adequacy of the disclosures in a proposed disclosure statement, including:
 - a. the events which led to the filing of a bankruptcy petition;
 - b. the relationship of a debtor with the affiliates;
 - c. a description of the available assets and their value;
 - d. the anticipated future of the company;
 - e. the source of information stated in the disclosure statement;

process between informed interested parties" (internal citation omitted)); *In re Copy Crafters Quickprint, Inc.*, 92 B.R. 973, 979 (Bankr. N.D.N.Y. 1988) (same); *In re Amfesco Indus., Inc.*, No. CV-88-2952 (JBW), 1988 WL 141524, at *5 (E.D.N.Y. Dec. 21, 1988) (stating that "[u]nder section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code, a reasonable and typical creditor or equity security holder must be provided 'adequate information' to make an informed judgment regarding a proposed plan."); *BSL Operating Corp. v. 125 E Taverns, Inc. (In re BSL Operating Corp.)*, 57 B.R. 945, 950 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1986) (stating that "[s]ection 1125 might be described as a non-rigid 'howto-inform' section A disclosure statement . . . is evaluated only in terms of whether it provides sufficient information to permit enlightened voting by holders of claims or interests.").

^{46 11} U.S.C. § 1125(a)(1) ("adequate information' means information of a kind, and in sufficient detail, as far as is reasonably practicable in light of the nature and history of the debtor and the condition of the debtor's books and records"); see also Oneida Motor Freight, Inc. v. United Jersey Bank, 848 F.2d 414, 417 (3d Cir. 1988) ("From the legislative history of § 1125 we discern that adequate information will be determined by the facts and circumstances of each case."); S. Rep. No. 95-989, at 121 (1978), reprinted in 1978 U.S.C.C.A.N. 5787, 5907 ("the information required will necessarily be governed by the circumstances of the case").

^{See, e.g., Kirk v. Texaco, Inc., 82 B.R. 678, 682 (S.D.N.Y. 1988) ("The legislative history could hardly be more clear in granting broad discretion to bankruptcy judges under § 1125(a): 'Precisely what constitutes adequate information in any particular instance will develop on a case-by-case basis. Courts will take a practical approach as to what is necessary under the circumstances of each case." (quoting H.R. Rep. No. 595, at 408–09 (1977))); see also In re River Village Assoc., 181 B.R. 795, 804 (E.D. Pa. 1995) ("[T]he Bankruptcy Court is thus given substantial discretion in considering the adequacy of a disclosure statement."); In re Tex. Extrusion Corp., 844 F.2d 1142, 1157 (5th Cir. 1988) ("The determination of what is adequate information is subjective and made on a case by case basis. This determination is largely within the discretion of the bankruptcy court."); In re Phoenix Petroleum Co., 278 B.R. 385, 393 (Bankr. E.D. Pa. 2001) (same); In re PC Liquidation Corp., 383 B.R. 856, 865 (E.D.N.Y. 2008) (internal citations omitted) ("The standard for disclosure is, thus, flexible and what constitutes 'adequate information' in any particular situation is determined on a case-by-case basis, with the determination being largely within the discretion of the bankruptcy court."); In re Lisanti Foods, Inc., 329 B.R. 491, 507 (Bankr. D.N.J. 2005) ("The information required will necessarily be governed by the circumstances of the case.").}

- f. the present condition of a debtor while in chapter 11;
- g. the claims asserted against a debtor;
- h. the estimated return to creditors under a chapter 7 liquidation;
- i. the future management of a debtor;
- j. the chapter 11 plan or a summary thereof;
- k. the financial information, valuations, and projections relevant to the claimants' decision to accept or reject the chapter 11 plan;
- l. the information relevant to the risks posed to claimants under the plan;
- m. the actual or projected realizable value from recovery of preferential or otherwise voidable transfers;
- n. the litigation likely to arise in a nonbankruptcy context; and
- o. the tax attributes of a debtor.⁴⁸
- 45. The Disclosure Statement contains adequate information and was previously approved on a conditional basis on January 13, 2023.⁴⁹ Indeed, the Disclosure Statement contains even more information than the FTX Disclosure Statement that was approved by the Court on a final basis on October 21, 2022.⁵⁰ The Disclosure Statement contains descriptions and summaries of, among other things: (a) the transactions contemplated by the Plan; (b) the Debtors' reorganization efforts; (c) certain events and relevant negotiations preceding the commencement

^{In re U.S. Brass Corp., 194 B.R. 20, 424–25 (Bankr. E.D. Tex. 1996) (listing factors courts have considered in determining the adequacy of information provided in a disclosure statement); Westland Oil Dev. Corp. v. MCorp Mgmt. Sols., Inc., 157 B.R. 100, 102 (S.D. Tex. 1993) (same); In re Scioto Valley Mortg. Co., 88 B.R. 168, 170–71 (Bankr. S.D. Ohio 1988) (same); In re Metrocraft Publ'g Servs., Inc., 39 B.R. 567, 568 (Bankr. N.D. Ga. 1984) (same). Disclosure regarding all topics "is not necessary in every case." In re U.S. Brass Corp., 194 B.R. at 425; see also In re Phx. Petroleum, 278 B.R. 385, 393 (Bankr. E.D. Pa. 2001) ("[C]ertain categories of information which may be necessary in one case may be omitted in another").}

⁴⁹ See Disclosure Statement Order [Docket No. 861].

⁵⁰ Docket No. 586.

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 40 of 135

of these chapter 11 cases; (d) risk factors affecting the Plan, including risks related to the Restructuring Transactions, risks related to the Debtors' businesses, and risks related to recoveries under the Plan; (e) the investigation performed by the Special Committee of the Board of Directors of Voyager Digital LLC of potential claims against insiders and the resolution of such claims that is incorporated into the Plan; (f) the Liquidation Analysis, which sets forth the estimated return that holders of Claims and Interests would receive in a hypothetical chapter 7 case; (g) federal tax law consequences of the Plan; (h) the Sale Transaction; and (i) the Liquidation Transaction.

46. As discussed above, section 1125(a) requires only "adequate information" sufficient for parties entitled to vote on a proposed plan to make an informed decision about whether to vote to accept or reject the plan. Accordingly, the Disclosure Statement contains adequate information within the meaning of section 1125(a) of the Bankruptcy Code and should be approved.

A. The Debtors Complied with the Applicable Notice and Solicitation Requirements.

47. In addition to conditionally approving the adequacy of the Disclosure Statement, the Disclosure Statement Order granted final relief regarding solicitation and noticing procedures and materials including, among other things: (a) approving the Solicitation and Voting Procedures; (b) approving the Combined Hearing Notice, certain notices of non-voting status, the Plan Supplement Notice, and the Assumption Notice and Rejection Notice; (c) approving the Ballots; and (d) approving certain dates and deadlines with respect to the Plan and Disclosure Statement. The Debtors have complied with the procedures and timeline approved by the Disclosure Statement Order.

B. Solicitation of the Plan Complied with the Bankruptcy Code and was in Good Faith.

- 48. Section 1125(e) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that "a person that solicits acceptance or rejection of a plan, in good faith and in compliance with the applicable provisions of this title . . . is not liable" on account of such solicitation for violation of any applicable law, rule, or regulation governing solicitation of acceptance or rejection of a plan.⁵¹
- 49. As set forth in the Disclosure Statement and Disclosure Statement Motion, and as demonstrated by the Debtors' compliance with the Disclosure Statement Order,⁵² the Debtors at all times took appropriate actions in connection with the solicitation of the Plan in compliance with section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code. Therefore, the Debtors request that the Court grant the parties the protections provided under section 1125(e) of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 50. For the forgoing reasons, the Court should enter an order approving the Disclosure Statement on a final basis.

III. The Plan Satisfies the Requirements of Section 1129 of the Bankruptcy Code.

- A. The Plan Complies with the Applicable Provisions of the Bankruptcy Code (§ 1129(a)(1)).
- 51. Under section 1129(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, a plan must "compl[y] with the applicable provisions of [the Bankruptcy Code]."⁵³ The legislative history of section 1129(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code explains that this provision also encompasses and incorporates the requirements of sections 1122 and 1123 of the Bankruptcy Code, which govern the classification

⁵¹ 11 U.S.C. § 1125(e).

⁵² See generally, Voting Report.

⁵³ 11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(1).

of claims and the contents of a plan of reorganization, respectively.⁵⁴ As explained below, the Plan complies with the requirements of sections 1122 and 1123 in all respects.

- 1. The Plan Satisfies the Classification Requirements of Section 1122 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 52. The classification requirement of section 1122(a) of the Bankruptcy Code provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a plan may place a claim or an interest in a particular class only if such claim or interest is substantially similar to the other claims or interests of such class.⁵⁵

53. The Second Circuit has recognized that plan proponents have significant flexibility under section 1122 in classifying claims.⁵⁶ Moreover, the requirement of substantial similarity does not mean that claims or interests within a particular class must be identical or that all similarly situated claims must receive the same treatment under a plan.⁵⁷ Indeed, as one court in this district has stated, "a majority of both cases and commentators have rejected the concept that all creditors

⁵⁴ See In re Drexel Burnham Lambert Grp., Inc., 138 B.R. 723, 757 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1992).

⁵⁵ 11 U.S.C. § 1122(a).

See In re Reader's Digest Ass'n, Inc., No. 09-23529 (RDD) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Jan. 15, 2010) [Docket No. 758] Hr'g Tr. 122:25-123:1-4 (approving a plan of reorganization where debtor provided a reasonable basis for differing classification of general unsecured claims); Frito-Lay, Inc. v. LTV Steel Co. (In re Chateaugay Corp.), 10 F.3d 944, 956-57 (2d Cir. 1993) (finding separate classification appropriate because classification scheme had a rational basis); In re 500 Fifth Ave. Assocs., 148 B.R. 1010, 1018 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1993) (finding that "the proponent of a plan of reorganization has considerable discretion to classify claims and interests according to the facts and circumstances of the case"), aff'd, No. 93-cv-844, 1993 WL 316183 (S.D.N.Y. May 21, 1993); Drexel, 138 B.R. at 757 ("Courts have found that the Bankruptcy Code only prohibits the identical classification of dissimilar claims. It does not require that similar classes be grouped together") (citation omitted); In re Ionosphere Clubs, Inc., 98 B.R. 174, 177–78 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1989) ("a debtor may place claimants of the same rank in different classes and thereby provide different treatment for each respective class.").

⁵⁷ See In re Sabine Oil & Gas Corp., 555 B.R. 180, 310 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2016); Drexel, 138 B.R. at 757 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1992) ("Courts have found that the Bankruptcy Code only prohibits the identical classification of dissimilar claims. It does not require that similar classes be grouped together, but merely that any groups be homogenous or share some attributes.") (citations omitted).

of equal rank must receive equal treatment."⁵⁸ Courts generally will approve placement of similar claims in different classes provided there is a "rational basis" or "reasonable basis" to do so.⁵⁹

- 54. The Plan's classification of Claims and Interests satisfies the requirements of section 1122 of the Bankruptcy Code because the Plan places Claims and Interests into eleven separate Classes, with Claims and Interests in each Class differing from the Claims and Interests in each other Class in a legal or factual way or based on other relevant criteria. Specifically, the Plan provides for the separate classification of Claims and Interests into the following Classes:
 - a. Class 1: Secured Tax Claims;
 - b. <u>Class 2</u>: Other Priority Claims;
 - c. <u>Class 3</u>: Account Holder Claims;
 - d. Class 4A: OpCo General Unsecured Claims;
 - e. Class 4B: HoldCo General Unsecured Claims;
 - f. <u>Class 4C</u>: TopCo General Unsecured Claims;
 - g. <u>Class 5</u>: Alameda Loan Facility Claims;
 - h. <u>Class 6</u>: Section 510(b) Claims;
 - i. Class 7: Intercompany Claims;
 - j. <u>Class 8</u>: Intercompany Interests; and
 - k. Class 9: Existing Equity Interests.

⁵⁸ See In re Ionosphere Clubs, Inc., 98 B.R. at 177.

See In re Reader's Digest Ass'n, Inc., No. 09-23529 (RDD) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Jan. 15, 2010) [Docket No. 758] Hr'g Tr. 122:25-123:1–4 (approving a plan of reorganization where debtor provided a reasonable basis for differing classification of general unsecured claims).

⁶⁰ See Plan Art. III.

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 44 of 135

55. Claims and Interests assigned to each particular Class described above are substantially similar to the other Claims and Interests in such Class.⁶¹ In addition, valid business, legal, and factual reasons justify the separate classification of the particular Claims or Interests into the Classes created under the Plan, and no unfair discrimination exists between or among Holders of Claims and Interests.⁶² Namely, the Plan separately classifies the Claims and Interests because each Holder of such Claims or Interests may hold (or may have held) rights in the estates legally dissimilar to the Claims or Interests in other Classes or because substantial administrative convenience results from such classification.

56. Dissimilar Claims and Interests are not classified together under the Plan. For example, debt and equity are classified separately and secured claims are classified separately from unsecured claims. Holders of Account Holder Claims are classified separately from Holders of OpCo General Unsecured Claims due to the unique nature and basis for the Account Holder Claims, which are made up of claims held by customers on the Voyager platform. Other General Unsecured Claims are broken into three classes, OpCo General Unsecured Claims, HoldCo General Unsecured Claims, and TopCo General Unsecured Claims, to account for the fact that Holders of such claims have legal recourse against only specific Debtors. Further, Alameda Loan Facility Claims are properly classified separately as such claims are on account of loans and asserted against multiple Debtor entities. Other aspects of the classification scheme recognize the different legal or factual nature of Claims or Interests.

57. Accordingly, the Claims or Interests assigned to each particular Class described above are substantially similar to the other Claims or Interests in each such Class and the

⁶¹ See Renzi Decl. ¶ 35.

⁶² See id. ¶ 36.

distinctions among Classes are based on valid business, factual, and legal distinctions. The Debtors submit that the Plan fully complies with and satisfies section 1122 of the Bankruptcy Code, and no party has asserted otherwise.

- 2. The Plan Satisfies the Mandatory Plan Requirements of Section 1123(a) of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 58. Section 1123(a) of the Bankruptcy Code sets forth seven criteria that every chapter 11 plan must satisfy.⁶³ The Plan satisfies each of these requirements.⁶⁴
 - (1) Designation of Classes of Claims and Equity Interests (§ 1123(a)(1))
- 59. For the reasons set forth above, Article III of the Plan properly designates classes of Claims and Interests and thus satisfies the requirement of section 1122 of the Bankruptcy Code.⁶⁵
 - (2) Specification of Unimpaired Classes (§ 1123(a)(2))
- 60. Section 1123(a)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that the Plan "specify any class of claims or interests that is not impaired under the plan." The Plan meets this requirement by identifying each Class in Article III that is Unimpaired.⁶⁶

^{63 11} U.S.C. § 1123(a)(1)–(7).

⁶⁴ See 11 U.S.C. § 1123(a)(1)–(8). Section 1123(a)(8) of the Bankruptcy Code is only applicable to individual debtors.

⁶⁵ See Renzi Decl. ¶¶ 35–36.

⁶⁶ See Plan Art. III; Renzi Decl. ¶ 37.

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 46 of 135

- (3) Treatment of Impaired Classes (§ 1123(a)(3))
- 61. Section 1123(a)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that the Plan "specify the treatment of any class of claims or interests that is impaired under the plan." The Plan meets this requirement by setting forth the treatment of each Class in Article III that is Impaired.⁶⁷
 - (4) Equal Treatment within Classes (§ 1123(a)(4))
- 62. Section 1123(a)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that the Plan "provide the same treatment for each claim or interest of a particular class, unless the holder of a particular claim or interest agrees to a less favorable treatment of such particular claim or interest." The Plan meets this requirement because Holders of Allowed Claims or Interests will receive the same rights and treatment as other Holders of Allowed Claims or Interests within such holders' respective Class. 69
- 63. The New York Objection and the Texas Objection argue that the Account Holder Claims are not being treated equally because Account Holders in Unsupported Jurisdictions may receive some or all of their recovery in Cash. This is incorrect. As set forth in greater detail in section IV below, all Account Holder Claims will be "dollarized" as of the Petition Date, and the Holders thereof will receive recoveries proportional to the "dollarized" value of their account holdings relative to the aggregate dollarized value of all customer accounts. The form such distributions take will be a function not of disparate treatment by the Debtors but of the laws and regulations of jurisdictions in which Account Holders reside. The New York Objection and the Texas Objection also argue that the different timing for Plan distributions to Account Holders in Supported Jurisdictions and Unsupported Jurisdictions constitutes unfair discrimination. These

⁶⁷ See id.

^{68 11} U.S.C. § 1123(a)(4).

⁶⁹ See Renzi Decl. ¶ 39.

arguments fail as well. Any delay in distributions to Account Holders in Unsupported Jurisdictions arises from the unwillingness of the Unsupported Jurisdictions to arrange accommodations for their constituents to receive in-kind distributions as 46 other states have already managed to do. And in any event, section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code requires only equality of treatment, not equality of result,⁷⁰ and the Plan treats Account Holders the same regardless of jurisdiction; any delays in timing are purely a result of unavoidable differences in regulatory regimes across the 50 states. Accordingly, the Plan provides the same treatment to the Account Holder Claims, and the Plan complies with section 1123(a)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code.

- (5) Means for Implementation ($\S 1123(a)(5)$)
- 64. Section 1123(a)(5) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that the Plan provide "adequate means" for its implementation.⁷¹ The Plan satisfies this requirement because Article IV of the Plan, as well as other provisions thereof, provide for the means by which the Plan will be implemented.⁷² Among other things, Article IV of the Plan provides for:
 - a. the general settlement of Claims and Interests;
 - b. consummation of the Sale Transaction, if applicable, including (i) the Customer Onboarding Protocol; (ii) the distribution of any Cryptocurrency or Cash pursuant to the Asset Purchase Agreement and the Plan; and (iii) all transactions necessary to provide for the purchase of the Acquired Assets by Purchaser under the Asset Purchase Agreement;
 - c. consummation of the Liquidation Transaction, as applicable;
 - d. the execution of the Plan Administrator Agreement and any transactions necessary or appropriate to form the Wind-Down Debtor;

See In re Latam Airlines Group SA, 2022 WL 2206829, at *35, (Bankr. S.D.N.Y June 18, 2022) (citing In re Dana Corp, 412 B.R. 53, 62 (S.D.N.Y. 2008))

⁷¹ 11 U.S.C. § 1123(a)(5).

⁷² See Renzi Decl. ¶¶ 40–41.

- e. the effectuation of the Employee Transition Plan;
- f. the implementation of the D&O Settlement;
- g. the retention of certain Non-Released D&O Claims to be pursued, settled, or resolved by the Wind-Down Debtor;
- h. appointment of the Plan Administrator and the Wind-Down Debtor Oversight Committee;
- i. sources of consideration for Plan distributions;
- j. the cancellation of certain notes, instruments, certificates, licenses, and other documents; and
- k. preservation of Vested Causes of Action.
- 65. The precise terms governing the execution of these transactions are set forth in the applicable definitive documents or forms of agreements included in the Plan Supplement. The Debtors submit that the Plan satisfies section 1123(a)(5) of the Bankruptcy Code.
 - (6) Issuance of Non-Voting Securities (§ 1123(a)(6))
- 66. Section 1123(a)(6) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that a debtor's corporate constituent documents prohibit the issuance of nonvoting equity securities. On or prior to the Effective Date, the Wind-Down Debtor's organizational documents will be amended to prohibit the issuance of non-voting equity securities. Accordingly, the Plan satisfies the requirements of section 1123(a)(6) of the Bankruptcy Code, and no parties have asserted otherwise.
 - (7) Directors and Officers ($\S 1123(a)(7)$)
- 67. Section 1123(a)(7) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that plan provisions with respect to the manner of selection of any director, officer, or trustee, or any other successor thereto, be "consistent with the interests of creditors and equity security holders and with public policy." The Plan satisfies this requirement by providing that, on the Effective Date, the authority, power, and incumbency of the persons acting as directors and officers of the Debtors shall be deemed to have resigned, solely in their capacities as such, and the Plan Administrator shall be appointed by

the Committee as the sole director and the sole officer of the Wind-Down Debtor and shall succeed to the powers of the Debtors' directors and officers subject to the Wind-Down Debtor Oversight Committee.⁷³ The Debtors also filed the Plan Administrator Agreement in the Plan Supplement, which provides the identity of the Plan Administrator. Accordingly, the Plan satisfies section 1123(a)(7) of the Bankruptcy Code, and no party has asserted otherwise.

- 3. The Plan Complies with the Discretionary Provisions of Section 1123(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 68. Section 1123(b) of the Bankruptcy Code sets forth various discretionary provisions that may be incorporated into a chapter 11 plan. Among other things, section 1123(b) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that a plan may: (a) modify, impair, or leave unimpaired any class of claims or interests; (b) provide for the settlement or adjustment of claims against or interests in a debtor or its estate or the retention and enforcement by a debtor, trustee, or other representative of claims or interests; (c) provide for the assumption or rejection of executory contracts and unexpired leases; (d) provide for the sale of all or substantially all of the property of the Debtors' estates, and the distribution of the proceeds of such sale among holders of claims or interests; or (e) "include any other appropriate provision not inconsistent with the applicable provisions of [the Bankruptcy Code]."⁷⁴
- 69. The Plan is consistent with section 1123(b) of the Bankruptcy Code. Specifically, under Article III of the Plan, Classes 1 and 2 are Unimpaired because the Plan leaves unaltered the legal, equitable, and contractual rights of the Holders of Claims within such Classes.⁷⁵ On the

The Plan Administrator will appoint an independent director at each Debtor to act as a fiduciary for such Debtor entity in connection with the resolution of Intercompany Claims.

⁷⁴ See 11 U.S.C. § 1123(b)(1)–(6).

⁷⁵ See Plan Art. III.

other hand, Classes 3, 4A, 4B, 4C, 6, and 9 are Impaired since the Plan modifies the rights of the Holders of Claims and Interests within such Classes as contemplated in section 1123(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code.⁷⁶ The treatment of Class 7 Intercompany Claims will be determined by the Court, and Class 8 Intercompany Interests may be Impaired or Unimpaired under the Plan.

70. In addition, and under section 1123(b)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code, Article V.A of the Plan provides that, on the Effective Date, all Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases, including any employee benefit plans, severance plans, and other Executory Contracts under which employee obligations arise, that, as of the Effective Date, were not previously rejected, assumed, or assumed and assigned, shall be deemed automatically rejected pursuant to sections 365 and 1123 of the Bankruptcy Code, except to the extent set forth in the Plan.⁷⁷ The Plan also contains provisions implementing certain releases and exculpations, compromising claims and interests, and enjoining certain causes of action.

71. Additionally, the Plan provides for implementation of the Sale Transaction, which contemplates the sale of certain of the Debtors' assets pursuant to the Asset Purchase Agreement. As set forth in greater detail in Article IV.C of the Plan, on or prior to the Effective Date, the Debtors shall have consummated the Sale Transaction, and, among other things, the Acquired Assets and Assumed Liabilities (as defined in the Asset Purchase Agreement) shall have transferred to the Purchaser free and clear of all Liens, Claims, Interests, charges, or other encumbrances, and the Purchaser shall pay to the Debtors the proceeds from the Sale Transaction, as and to the extent provided for in the Asset Purchase Agreement.

⁷⁶ *See id.*

⁷⁷ See Plan Art. V.A.

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 51 of 135

- 72. Finally, as discussed above, the Plan contains provisions implementing certain releases and exculpations, compromising claims and interests, and enjoining certain causes of action. These provisions are consistent with those approved by the Court in precedent chapter 11 liquidation plans. Each of these provisions is appropriate because, as applicable, they (a) are the product of arm's-length negotiations, (b) have been critical to obtaining the support of the various constituencies for the Plan, (c) are given for valuable consideration, (d) are fair and equitable and in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates, and these chapter 11 cases, and (e) are consistent with the relevant provisions of the Bankruptcy Code and Second Circuit law. Such provisions, including certain releases of potential Debtor claims in connection with the D&O Settlement, are discussed in turn below, but, in summary, satisfy the requirements of section 1123(b).
 - (1) The Settlement of Claims and Controversies Is Fair and Equitable and Should be Approved.
- 73. The Plan provides for the general settlement of all Claims, Interests, Causes of Action, and controversies released, settled, compromised, or otherwise resolved pursuant to the Plan. The Plan also provides for implementation of the D&O Settlement. As described in greater detail in Article IV.G of the Plan and Article VII.A.2(i) of the Disclosure Statement, the D&O Settlement is the result of the Special Committee Investigation into the facts and circumstances of the Debtors' prepetition conduct. Over the course of the Investigation, the Special Committee, among other things, collected and reviewed thousands of documents and conducted over 55 hours of interviews with the Debtors' directors and officers. As set forth in the Investigation Report, the Special Committee found no fraud or theft by any director, officer, or employee of any of the

See, e.g., Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order Confirming Debtors' Modified First Amended Joint Plan Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code filed in In re Hollander Sleep Products, LLC, No. 19-11608 (MEW) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. May 19, 2019) at docket number 356 (confirming chapter 11 plan containing injunction provisions consistent with those in the Debtors' Plan).

Debtors and found no colorable claims against any Voyager director or officer other than potential claims against the Debtors' Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") and Chief Commercial Officer (and former Chief Financial Officer) ("CCO") relating to the 3AC Loan. The Special Committee found that although these particular claims are colorable, the standard for successfully prosecuting such claims would be difficult to meet and any resulting judgment even more difficult to collect. Accordingly, the Special Committee negotiated independent settlements with each of the CEO and CCO as set forth in the Plan, subject to approval of the Court as part of Plan confirmation. Each component of the D&O Settlement is an integral, integrated, and inextricably linked part of the D&O Settlement.⁷⁹

\$1.2 million—\$2 million of personal assets plus recourse to up to \$20 million of D&O insurance) are a fraction of the Debtors' loss incurred in connection with the 3AC Loan, the Special Committee made the decision to settle, subject to Court approval, based on both the challenges in litigating that claim *and* the fact that the CEO and CCO do not have personal assets available to satisfy any potential judgment even if the claims were successfully prosecuted. Moreover, the cost of prosecuting would not only likely exceed the amounts collected even if successful but would simultaneously dissipate the available D&O insurance coverage and the assets that are being paid through the settlement in defense costs. The rationale for the Special Committee's negotiation and recommendation for the settlements is based, among other things, on the relative strength or weakness of these claims, the challenges involved in litigating, the costs of litigating these claims, the financial wherewithal of the officers, and the risk of depletion of substantial portions of available insurance coverage that prioritizes the rights of the officers to utilize the insurance for

⁷⁹ See Pohl Decl. ¶¶ 22–31.

defense costs. The Special Committee therefore believes, and the Debtors agree, that the settlements embodied in the Plan are in the best interests of the estate. The Committee has also been heavily involved in the investigation and settlement process, and it, too, believes the settlements and releases embodied in the Plan are in the best interests of the estate and of unsecured creditors generally.⁸⁰

- 75. The compromises set forth in the Plan, including the D&O Settlement, are critical to bringing closure to these and other matters addressed in the Plan and permitting the Debtors to avoid waste and maximize the value of the Estate for the benefit of all parties in interest and maximize recoveries for all Holders of Claims and Interests.⁸¹
 - (2) The Plan's Release, Exculpation, and Injunction Provisions Satisfy Section 1123(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 76. The Plan includes certain releases, an exculpation provision, and an injunction provision. These discretionary provisions are proper because, among other things, they are necessary to achieving the value maximizing conclusion to these chapter 11 cases and securing necessary support for the terms of the Plan, including the D&O Settlement, are supported by the Debtors and their key constituents, and are consistent with applicable precedent.⁸²
 - (i) The Debtor Release Is Appropriate.
- 77. Article VIII.A of the Plan provides for releases by the Debtors of Claims and Causes of Action against the Released Parties⁸³ (the "Debtor Release"). The Debtor Release is a

See Statement of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors in Support of (A) Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order (I) Authorizing Entry Into the Binance US Purchase Agreement and (II) Granting Related Relief; and (B) Submission of the Committee's Solicitation Letter in Support of the Debtors' Third Amended Joint Plan [Docket No. 837], Exhibit A.

⁸¹ See Pohl Decl. ¶¶ 22–31.

⁸² *See* Renzi Decl. ¶¶ 114–15.

Pursuant to the Plan, "<u>Released Parties</u>" means, collectively, in each case in its capacity as such: (a) the Debtors; (b) the Committee, and each of the members thereof; (c) each of the Released Professionals; (d) Purchaser and

vital component of the Plan, and as described above it is a sound exercise of the Debtors' business judgment and should be approved.

78. It is well-settled that a debtor is authorized to settle or release its claims in a chapter 11 plan.⁸⁴ Such releases are granted by courts in the Second Circuit where they are in the "best interests of the estate."⁸⁵ In determining whether such a release is within the best interests of the estate, the court need not conduct a "mini-trial" of the facts or the merits underlying [each] dispute[,]" and "the settlement need not be the best that the debtor could have obtained."⁸⁶ Under this standard, the "court should instead 'canvass [sic] the [settled] issues [to] see whether the settlement falls below the lowest point in the range of reasonableness."⁸⁷ Courts in the Second Circuit consider the following factors to determine whether a settlement is within the range of reasonableness: (a) the balance between the claim's possibility of success and the settlement's benefits; (b) the likelihood of complex and protracted litigation, including attendant expense, inconvenience, and delay; (c) the interests of creditors; (d) whether other interested parties support the settlement; (e) the nature and breadth of releases; (f) the competency and experience of counsel supporting, and the experience and knowledge of the judge reviewing, the settlement; and (g) the extent to which the settlement is the product of arm's-length bargaining.⁸⁸

each of its Related Parties; and (e) each of the Released Voyager Employees (subject to the limitations contained in Article IV.F and Article IV.G of the Plan); provided that if the Asset Purchase Agreement is terminated, Purchaser and each of its Related Parties shall not be "Released Parties" under the Plan. Plan, Art. I.A.136.

See, e.g., In re Adelphia Commc'ns Corp., 368 B.R. 140, 263 n.289 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2007) (holding the debtor may release its own claims); In re Oneida Ltd., 351 B.R. 79, 94 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2006) (noting that a debtor's release of its own claims is permissible).

See In re Charter Commc'ns, Inc., 419 B.R. 221, 257 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2009) ("When reviewing releases in a debtor's plan, courts consider whether such releases are in the best interest of the estate.") (citation omitted).

⁸⁶ In re NII Holdings, Inc., 536 B.R. 61, 99 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2015) (quoting Adelphia, 368 B.R. at 225).

⁸⁷ *Id.* at 100 (quoting Adelphia, 368 B.R. at 225 (citation omitted)).

⁸⁸ *Id.* (citing *In re Iridium Operating LLCs*, 478 F.3d 452, 462 (2d Cir. 2007)).

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 55 of 135

79. The Debtor Release should be approved. During the Plan negotiations, it became apparent that the Debtor Release would be a necessary condition of the Restructuring Transactions embodied in the Plan. Without the Debtor Release, the Debtors and their stakeholders would have been unable to secure the substantial benefits provided by the Plan in the expedited timeframe in which the Debtors propose to exit bankruptcy.⁸⁹ As discussed in greater detail in Article IV.A herein, the Releases include settlement and releases of the Debtors' claims following the Special Committee Investigation into certain historical transactions, including the facts and circumstances related to the 3AC Loan. The inclusion of the Debtor Release avoids waste and benefits all of the Debtors' stakeholders. The Debtors' creditors agree: Holders of Claims in the Voting Classes voted overwhelmingly in support of the Plan. Only 8 parties objected to the Releases, and even those few objections appear to misunderstand the distinction between a third-party release and the Debtor release that is being proposed. For the avoidance of doubt, and in an effort to clarify the situation for creditors, no creditor's direct claim (if they have a direct claim) against any party other than the Debtors is released by the Plan unless such creditor affirmatively opts-in to the Plan's Third Party Release provisions. The only thing released without the affirmative "optin" from individual creditors are *the Debtors' potential claims* against such Released Parties.

80. Release of the Released Parties is also appropriate under the circumstances. The Released Parties have made substantial and valuable contributions to the Debtors' chapter 11 process through, among other things, their efforts to market and sell the Debtors' assets and negotiate and implement the Plan, which will maximize value for the benefit of all parties in interest. 90 In addition, as described in section IV.P of the Disclosure Statement, the CEO and CCO

⁸⁹ Renzi Decl. ¶¶ 114–15.

⁹⁰ See id.

are making additional personal contributions to the Plan pursuant to the D&O Settlement. In addition, the active participation of the Released Voyager Employees and the Released Professionals, both in prepetition negotiations and during the course of these chapter 11 cases—and for many through their anticipated assistance in implementing the Plan and getting recoveries to customers as soon as possible—merit their inclusion as Released Parties for purposes of the Debtor Release.⁹¹

- 81. For the foregoing reasons, the Debtors' agreement to provide the Debtor Release constitutes a sound exercise of the Debtors' business judgment and should be approved.
 - (ii) The Third-Party Release is Wholly Consensual and Is Appropriate.
- 82. Article VIII.B of the Plan provides that each Releasing Party⁹² shall release any and all Causes of Action such parties could assert against the Debtors and other Released Parties (the "Third-Party Release," and together with the Debtor Release, the "Releases"). The Releasing Parties include (a) the Debtors; (b) the Wind-Down Debtor; (c) the Committee, and each of the members thereof; (d) each of the Released Professionals; (e) each of the Released Voyager Employees; (f) Purchaser and each of its Related Parties to the extent Purchaser is able to bind such Related Parties; (g) all Holders of Claims that vote to accept the Plan and affirmatively opt

⁹¹ See Pohl Decl. ¶ 30.

Pursuant to the Plan, "Releasing Parties" means, collectively, in each case in its capacity as such: (a) the Debtors; (b) the Committee, and each of the members thereof; (c) each of the Released Professionals; (d) each of the Released Voyager Employees; (e) Purchaser and each of its Related Parties to the extent Purchaser is able to bind such Related Parties; (f) all Holders of Claims that vote to accept the Plan and affirmatively opt into the releases provided by the Plan; (g) all Holders of Claims or Interests that abstain from voting (or are otherwise not entitled to vote) on the Plan and affirmatively opt into the releases provided by the Plan; provided that if the Asset Purchase Agreement is terminated, Purchaser and each of its Related Parties shall not be "Releasing Parties" under the Plan. See Plan, Art. I.A.139. For the avoidance of doubt, subject to the express limitations set forth in the Plan and in the D&O Settlement, parties who are covered by the D&O Policies retain their rights to coverage and indemnity as set forth in those policies. See Plan, Art. V.E.

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 57 of 135

into the Third-Party Release provided by the Plan; (h) all Holders of Claims that vote to reject the Plan and affirmatively opt into the Third-Party Release provided by the Plan; and (i) all Holders of Claims or Interests that abstain from voting (or are otherwise not entitled to vote) on the Plan and affirmatively opt into the Third-Party Release provided by the Plan; *provided* that if the Asset Purchase Agreement is terminated, Purchaser and each of its Related Parties shall not be "Releasing Parties" under the Plan. The Third-Party Release is consensual, consistent with established Second Circuit law, and integral to the Plan and therefore should be approved.

- Courts in this district regularly approve third party releases such as those contained in the Plan on the grounds that such releases are consensual. Here, the Third-Party Releases provided under the Plan are *entirely consensual* in that the Plan offers all Holders of Claims and Interests—whether such Holders vote to accept, vote to reject, or abstain from voting or are otherwise not entitled to vote on the Plan—to be considered Releasing Parties *only if they affirmatively opt in* to the Releases provided by the Plan. Accordingly, the Third-Party Release is fully consensual. In addition, as set forth in the Voting Report, approximately 65 percent of Holders of Claims or Interests affirmatively opted into the Third-Party Releases.
- 84. In addition to being consensual, the Third-Party Release is substantively warranted for the Released Parties. As discussed above, for months prior to the commencement of these

In re Wool Growers Cent. Storage Co., 371 B.R. 768, 775 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. 2007); see also In re Indianapolis Downs, LLC, 486 B.R. 286, 305 (Bankr. D. Del. 2013) ("Courts in this jurisdiction have consistently held that a plan may provide for a release of third party claims against a non-debtor upon consent of the party affected.").

See In re Chassix Holdings, Inc., 533 B.R. 64, 80 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2015) ("Consenting Creditors' should include creditors who voted in favor of the Plan . . . [s]imilarly, creditors who rejected the Plan, but who nevertheless 'opted in' to the releases, have consented to those releases."); In re MPM Silicones, 2014 WL 4436335, at *32 (citing In re Metromedia Fiber Network, Inc., 416 F.3d 136, 141 (2d Cir. 2005)); see also In re Genco Shipping & Trading Ltd., 513 B.R. 233, 271 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2014); In re Chemtura Corp., 439 B.R. 561, 611 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2010); In re Calpine Corp., No. 05-60200 (BRL), 2007 WL 4565223, at *10 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Dec. 19, 2007).

chapter 11 cases and throughout the pendency of these chapter 11 cases, the Released Parties made substantial and valuable contributions to the Debtors' chapter 11 process through, among other things, efforts to market and sell the Debtors' assets and negotiate and implement the Plan, which will maximize value for the benefit of all parties in interest.⁹⁵

Professionals⁹⁶ and the Released Voyager Employees⁹⁷ steadfastly maintained their duties to maximize value for the benefit of all stakeholders, investing thousands of hours both pre- and postpetition in addition to performing their ordinary course responsibilities.⁹⁸ Without the contributions of the Debtors' board of directors, the Released Voyager Employees, and the Released Professionals, the Debtors would not have been able to enter into the Asset Purchase Agreement and pursue confirmation of the Plan. There would instead be conversion to a chapter 7 liquidation in which creditors would receive a materially smaller recovery while waiting a materially longer period of time to receive it. Accordingly, the Debtors submit that the Third-

⁹⁵ See Renzi Decl. ¶ 114–15; Pohl Decl. ¶ 30.

Pursuant to the Plan, "Released Professionals" means the following professionals retained by the Debtors, the Committee, or the Purchaser (as applicable): (i) Kirkland & Ellis LLP; (ii) Moelis & Company LLC; (iii) Berkeley Research Group, LLC; (iv) Bankruptcy Management Solutions, Inc. d/b/a Stretto; (v) Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP; (vi) Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP; (vii) Campbells Legal (BVI); (viii) McDermott Will & Emery LLP; (ix) FTI Consulting, Inc.; (x) Epiq Corporate Restructuring, LLC; (xi) Cassels, Brock & Blackwell LLP; (xii) Paul Hastings LLP; (xiii) Harney Westwood & Riegels LP (BVI); (xiv) Day Pitney LLP (solely in their capacity as counsel to the Debtors); (xv) Jenner & Block LLP; (xvi) Seyfarth Shaw LLP; (xvii) Alvarez & Marsal Canada Inc.; (xviii) Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP; (xix) Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss; (xx) Latham & Watkins LLP; (xxi) Lowenstein Sandler LLP; (xxii) Kramer Levin LLP; and (xxiii) Acura Law Firm; provided that if the Asset Purchase Agreement is terminated, Latham & Watkins LLP shall not be a "Released Professional" under the Plan. Plan, Art.I.A.137.

Pursuant to the Plan, "<u>Released Voyager Employees</u>" means all directors, officers, and Persons employed by each of the Debtors and their Affiliates serving in such capacity on or after the Petition Date but before the Effective Date (subject to the limitations contained in Article IV.F and Article IV.G of the Plan). Plan, Art.I.138.

⁹⁸ See Renzi Decl. ¶ 114–15; Pohl Decl. ¶ 30.

Party Release is consensual and appropriate and, accordingly, the Third-Party Release should be approved.

- (iii) The Exculpation Provision Is Appropriate.
- 86. Article VIII.C of the Plan provides that each Exculpated Party⁹⁹ shall be released and exculpated from any causes of action arising out of acts or omissions in connection with these chapter 11 cases and certain related transactions, except for acts or omissions that are found to have been the product of actual fraud, willful misconduct, or gross negligence (the "Exculpation"). The Exculpation is intended to prevent collateral attacks against estate fiduciaries or parties that have acted in good faith to help facilitate the Debtors' reorganization. The Exculpation is an integral part of the Plan and otherwise satisfies the governing standards in the Second Circuit. This provision provides necessary and customary protections to those parties in interest (whether estate fiduciaries or otherwise) whose efforts were and continue to be vital to implementing the Plan. The Debtors' Exculpation provisions fully comply with this Court's ruling in *Aegean*.
- 87. In the Second Circuit, exculpation provisions like the one set forth in the Plan are regularly approved. Ourts evaluate the appropriateness of exculpation provisions based on a

Pursuant to the Plan, "<u>Exculpated Parties</u>" means, collectively, and in each case in its capacity as such: (a) each of the Debtors; (b) the Committee, and each of the members thereof, solely in their capacity as such; (c) each of the Released Professionals; and (d) each of the Released Voyager Employees. *See* Plan, Art. I.A.77.

^{See, e.g., In re Oneida, 351 B.R. 79, 94, n.22 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2006) (considering an exculpation provision covering a number of prepetition actors with respect to certain prepetition actions, as well as postpetition activity); In re Relativity Media, LLC, Case No. 18-11358 (MEW) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Jan. 31, 2019) [Docket No. 689-1] (approving exculpation provision for estate fiduciaries and non-fiduciaries); In re Pacific Drilling S.A., Case No. 17-13193 (MEW) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Nov. 2, 2018) [Docket No. 746] (finding that an exculpation for both estate fiduciaries and non-fiduciaries was "consistent with prior case law, reasonable in scope, integral to the Plan, and appropriate."); In re Advanced Science Technologies, Inc., Case No. 17-13668 (SMB) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Feb. 7, 2018) [Docket No. 60-1] (same); In re Cumulus Media Inc., Case No. 17-1381 (SCC) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. May 10, 2018) [Docket No. 769] (approving exculpation provision); In re Avaya Inc., Case No. 17-10089 (SMB) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Nov. 28, 2017) [Docket No. 1579] (same); In re International Shipholding Corp., Case No. 16-12220 (SMB) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. March 2, 2017) [Docket No. 671-1] (same); In re Fairway Group Holdings Corp., Case No. 16-11241 (MEW) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. June 8, 2016) [Docket No. 156] (approving exculpation provision subject to modification of "Exculpated Parties"); In re Cengage Learning, Inc., Case No. 13-44106 (ESS) (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. Mar. 14, 2014) [Docket No. 1225] (approving exculpation provision for estate fiduciaries and non-fiduciaries for "any prepetition or postpetition act taken or omitted to be taken in connection}

number of factors, including whether the plan was proposed in good faith, whether liability is limited, and whether the exculpation provision was necessary for plan negotiations.¹⁰¹ Exculpation provisions that are limited to claims not involving actual fraud, willful misconduct, or gross negligence, are customary and generally approved in this district under appropriate circumstances.¹⁰² Unlike third-party releases, exculpation provisions do not affect the liability of third parties *per se* but rather set a standard of care of gross negligence or willful misconduct in future litigation by a non-releasing party against an "Exculpated Party" for acts arising out of the

with, or related to formulating, negotiating, soliciting, preparing, disseminating, confirming, implementing, or consummating the Plan"); *In re Eastman Kodak Co.*, Case No. 12-10202 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Aug. 23, 2013) [Docket No. 4966] (overruling U.S. Trustee objection to exculpation of both estate fiduciaries and non-fiduciaries from liability for "any prepetition or postpetition act taken or omitted to be taken in connection with, or arising from or relating in any way to, the chapter 11 cases"); *In re RDA Holding Co.*, Case No. 13-22233 (RDD) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. June 28, 2013) [Docket No. 478] (finding exculpation provisions appropriate); *In re Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios Inc.*, Case No. 10-15774 (SMB) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Dec. 6, 2010) [Docket No. 173] ¶ LL (approving exculpation provision); *In re Neff Corp.*, Case No. 10-12610 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Sept. 20, 2010) [Docket No. 443] (estate and non-estate fiduciaries "shall neither have, nor incur any liability to any Entity for any prepetition or postpetition act taken or omitted to be taken in connection with, or related to formulating, negotiating . . . the Plan"); *In re Charter Commc'ns, Inc.*, Case No. 09-11435 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Nov. 17, 2009) [Docket No. 921] (approving exculpation of estate fiduciaries and non-fiduciaries for "any prepetition or postpetition act taken or omitted to be taken in connection with, or related to . . . the restructuring of the Company").

See, e.g., In re Enron Corp., 326 B.R. 497, 503 (S.D.N.Y. 2005) (evaluating the exculpation clause based on the manner in which the clause was made a part of the agreement, the necessity of the limited liability to the plan negotiations, and that those who participated in proposing the plan did so in good faith).

See, e.g., In re Windstream Holdings, Inc., No. 19-22312 (RDD), (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. May 8, 2020) Hr'g Tr. at 92:21–23 (approving exculpation provisions and noting that "with the carveout for fraud and gross negligence, I don't have a problem with [the exculpation]"); Oneida, 351 B.R. at 94 n.22 (approving exculpation provision except in cases of gross negligence, willful misconduct, fraud, or criminal conduct over an objection that was raised but "not pursue[d] at the confirmation hearing" and noting that the language "generally follows the text that has become standard in this district, is sufficiently narrow to be unexceptional"); see In re Cengage Learning, Inc., No. 13-44106 (ESS) (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. Mar. 14, 2014) [Docket No. 1225] (approving exculpation provision that extended to estate fiduciaries and non-fiduciaries that excluded gross negligence and willful misconduct); In re DJK Residential, LLC, No. 08-10375 (JMP) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. May 7, 2008) [Docket No. 497] (approving an exculpation provision that excluded gross negligence and willful misconduct).

Debtors' restructuring.¹⁰³ Exculpation for parties participating in the Plan process is appropriate where Plan negotiations could not have occurred without protection from liability.¹⁰⁴

88. The Exculpated Parties have participated in good faith in formulating and negotiating the Plan as it relates to the Debtors, and they should be entitled to protection from exposure to any lawsuits related to this chapter 11 process filed by unsatisfied parties. Moreover, the Exculpation provision and the liability standard it sets represent a conclusion of law that flows logically from certain findings of fact that the Court must reach in confirming the Plan as it relates to the Debtors. As discussed above, this Court must find, under section 1129(a)(2), that the Debtors have complied with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code. Additionally, this Court must find, under section 1129(a)(3), that the Plan has been proposed in good faith and not by any means forbidden by law. These findings apply to the Debtors and, by extension, to the Debtors' officers, directors, employees, and professionals. Further, these findings imply that the Plan was negotiated at arm's-length and in good faith.

89. Here, the Debtors and their officers, directors, and professionals actively negotiated the Plan with the Committee, the Purchaser, and others. Such negotiations were extensive, and the resulting agreements were implemented in good faith with a high degree of transparency, and as a result, the Plan enjoys support from approximately 97 percent in number and 98 percent in

See In re PWS Holding Corp., 228 F.3d 224, 245 (3d Cir. 2000) (finding that an exculpation provision "is apparently a commonplace provision in Chapter 11 plans, [and] does not affect the liability of these parties, but rather states the standard of liability under the Code"); see also In re Premier Int'l Holdings, Inc., 2010 WL 2745964, at *10 (CSS) (Bankr. D. Del. Apr. 29, 2010) (approving a similar exculpation provision as that provided for under the Plan); In re Spansion, 2010 WL 2905001, at *16 (Bankr. D. Del. April 16, 2010) (same).

In re Aegean Marine Petroleum Network, Inc., 599 B.R. 717, 721 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2019) ("I believe that an appropriate exculpation provision should say that it bars claims against the exculpated parties based on the negotiation, execution, and implementation of agreements and transactions that were approved by the Court.").

¹⁰⁵ Renzi Decl. ¶¶ 114–15.

¹⁰⁶ Renzi Decl. ¶¶ 20, 32, 46, 108.

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 62 of 135

amount of Holders of Account Holder Claims actually voting.¹⁰⁷ The Exculpated Parties played a critical role in negotiating, formulating, and implementing the Disclosure Statement, the Plan, the Asset Purchase Agreement, and related documents in furtherance of the Sale Transaction or the Liquidation Transaction contemplated by the Plan. Furthermore, the Exculpation provision is limited to acts during these chapter 11 cases and does not extend beyond such time period. Accordingly, the Court's findings of good faith vis-à-vis the Debtors' chapter 11 cases should also extend to the Exculpated Parties. Additionally, the promise of exculpation played a significant role in facilitating Plan negotiations.¹⁰⁸ All of the Exculpated Parties played a key role in developing the Plan that paved the way for a successful transaction and likely would not have been so inclined to participate in the Plan process without the promise of exculpation.¹⁰⁹

90. Under the circumstances, it is appropriate for the Court to approve the Exculpation provision and to find that the Exculpated Parties have acted in good faith and in compliance with the law.

(iv) The Injunction Provision Is Appropriate.

91. The injunction provision set forth in Article VIII.D of the Plan merely implements the Plan's Releases and Exculpation provisions in a manner consistent with provisions approved by the Court in precedent chapter 11 liquidation plans. Thus, the injunction provision is a key provision of the Plan because it enforces the Releases and Exculpation provisions that are centrally

¹⁰⁷ See generally, Voting Report.

¹⁰⁸ Renzi Decl. ¶¶ 9, 114–15.

¹⁰⁹ *Id*.

See, e.g., Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order Confirming Debtors' Modified First Amended Joint Plan Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code filed in In re Hollander Sleep Products, LLC, No. 19-11608 (MEW) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. May 19, 2019) at docket number 356 (confirming chapter 11 plan containing injunction provisions consistent with those in the Debtors' Plan).

important to the Plan.¹¹¹ As such, to the extent the Court finds that the Exculpation and Releases are appropriate, the Debtors respectfully submit that the injunction provision must also be appropriate. Moreover, this injunction provision is narrowly tailored to achieve its purpose.

- (3) The Sale Transaction Should Be Approved Under Sections 363(b)(1) and 1123(b)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code as Sound Exercise of the Debtors' Business Judgment.
- 92. The Court may authorize the Debtors to sell the Acquired Assets (as defined in the Asset Purchase Agreement) and all other assets transferred to the Purchaser under the Asset Purchase Agreement pursuant to sections 363(b)(1) and 1123(b)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code. Section 363(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code provides, in relevant part, that "[t]he [debtor], after notice and a hearing, may use, sell, or lease, other than in the ordinary course of business, property of the estate." Similarly, section 1123(b)(4) provides that a "plan may provide for the sale of all or substantially all of the property of the estate." To approve a sale under section 363(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, the debtor is required to show that the decision to sell the property outside of the ordinary course of business was based on a sound exercise of the debtor's business judgment. Accordingly, for the purpose of selling property of the estate, the Debtors need only show a legitimate business justification for the proposed action.

See In re Drexel Burnham Lambert Grp., 960 F.2d 285, 293 (2d Cir. 1992) (holding that a court may approve injunction provision where such provision "plays an important part in the debtor's reorganization plan").

See, e.g., In re Eastman Kodak Co., 2012 Bankr. LEXIS 2746, at *8 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. June 15, 2012) ("[A] sale under section 363 requires 'some articulated business justification."") (quoting In re Lionel Corp., 722 F.2d 1063, 1070 (2d Cir. 1983); In re Innkeepers USA Trust, 448 B.R. 131, 146 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2011) (same); In re Boston Generating, LLC, 440 B.R. 302, 322 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2010) (same).

See, e.g., Lionel, 722 F.2d at 1070; In re Johns-Manville Corp., 60 B.R. 612, 616 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1986) ("Where the debtor articulates a reasonable basis for its business decisions (as distinct from a decision made arbitrarily or capriciously), courts will generally not entertain objections to the debtor's conduct.").

93. The business judgment rule shields a debtor's management decisions from judicial second guessing.¹¹⁴ Once a debtor articulates a valid business justification, the law vests the debtor's decision to use property outside of the ordinary course of business with a strong presumption that "in making a business decision the directors of a corporation acted on an informed basis, in good faith and in the honest belief that the action taken was in the best interests of the company."¹¹⁵ Parties challenging a debtor's decision must make a showing of "bad faith, self-interest or gross negligence."¹¹⁶ Generally, if a debtor's actions satisfy the business judgment rule, then the transaction in question should be approved under section 363(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code.

94. The Debtors' sale of the assets under the Asset Purchase Agreement represents a sound exercise of the Debtors' business judgment, is essential to the Sale Transaction under the Plan, and is justified under section 363(b) of the Bankruptcy Code. As set forth in greater detail in Article II.A and Article V.B of the Disclosure Statement, following the collapse of the FTX Transaction, the Debtors and their advisors immediately restarted the marketing process, leveraged the significant groundwork laid during the prior marketing process, and reengaged with many of the parties that were previously involved in the process as well as several new parties who expressed interest in acquiring the Debtors' assets.

Johns-Manville Corp., 60 B.R. at 615–16 (discussing how a "presumption of reasonableness attaches to a debtor's management decisions" and courts will generally not entertain objections to the debtor's conduct after a reasonable basis is set forth).

In re GSC, Inc., 453 B.R. 132, 174 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2011) (quoting Smith v. Van Gorkom, 488 A.2d 858, 872 (Del. 1985)); see also In re Filene's Basement, LLC, 11-13511 (KJC), 2014 WL 1713416, at *12 (Bankr. D. Del. Apr. 29, 2014) ("If a valid business justification exists, then a strong presumption follows that the agreement at issue was negotiated in good faith and is in the best interests of the estate") (citations omitted); In re Integrated Res., Inc., 147 B.R. 650, 656 (S.D.N.Y. 1992), appeal dismissed, 3 F.3d 49 (2d Cir. 1993).

¹¹⁶ Integrated Res., 147 B.R. at 656 (citations omitted).

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 65 of 135

95. The Debtors received several proposals and engaged in extensive negotiations with all interested parties. The Debtors, with the assistance of their advisors, analyzed each proposal received from interested parties, answered numerous requests for additional information, held several conferences with the Debtors' management teams, their advisors, and the Committee, pushed the bidders to improve the economic and other terms of their bids, and analyzed the viability of each of the proposed transactions. When analyzing proposals received from interested parties, the Debtors and their advisors considered both the viability and risk factors associated with each proposed transaction, including but not limited to, timing considerations, third-party financing requirements, ability to consummate, cybersecurity risks, regulatory and licensing status, and counterparty risk based on the counterparty due diligence conducted both prior to and during the initial Auction and following the collapse of FTX. After thoroughly engaging with all interested parties, on December 18, 2022, Voyager Digital, LLC (the "Seller") executed the Asset Purchase Agreement with Binance.US. On December 21, 2022, the Debtors filed the Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order (I) Authorizing Entry Into the Binance US Purchase Agreement and (II) Granting Related Relief (the "Sale Motion"), 117 which sought approval of the Seller's entry into the Asset Purchase Agreement. On January 13, 2023, the Court entered the APA Order. 118

96. The Debtors value the Sale Transaction at approximately \$1.022 billion, comprising (a) the value of cryptocurrency on the Voyager platform as of a date to be determined, which as of December 19, 2022 at 0:00 UTC, is estimated to be \$1.002 billion, plus (b) additional consideration, which is estimated to provide at least \$20 million of incremental value. The Sale Transaction also includes additional benefits, as it (a) provides the most tax efficient route forward

¹¹⁷ Docket No. 775.

¹¹⁸ Docket No. 860.

as Binance.US supports 100% of the cryptocurrency coins on the Debtors' platform, (b) is the only transaction available to the Debtors that did not contemplate requiring the Debtors to liquidate cryptocurrency for working capital purposes in the first instance, (c) includes reimbursement by Binance.US of up to \$15 million of Seller's expenses under certain circumstances set forth in the Asset Purchase Agreement, (d) provides a \$10 million reverse termination fee payable to the Seller by Binance.US to compensate the Debtors' estates in the event that Binance.US cannot consummate the transaction under certain circumstances set forth in the Asset Purchase Agreement, and (e) in the event that the Debtors pivot to the Liquidation Transaction, provides that Binance.US will provide certain services to facilitate such Liquidation Transaction to ensure that the Debtors can rely on the Binance.US platform to minimize leakage with, and cybersecurity risks when, returning cryptocurrency to creditors.

97. Importantly, the "fiduciary out" included in the Asset Purchase Agreement permits the Debtors to toggle *either* to a higher and better third-party bid (should one emerge) *or* to the Liquidation Transaction, if the Debtors determine that the Sale Transaction is no longer the highest or otherwise best option. However, the Debtors believe that the Sale Transaction presents the most value maximizing path forward because the Liquidation Transaction, while still presenting a viable option, could (a) lead to incremental value leakage (*e.g.*, the Debtors would likely be forced to realize a discount due to liquidation of sizable positions in the marketplace), over and above that in a third party transaction, thereby resulting in worse creditor recoveries, (b) require the Debtors to liquidate additional cryptocurrency to fund working capital requirements to complete the work required (including AML/KYC compliance), (c) create additional security risks (particularly if the Debtors are unable to retain critical personnel necessary to perform the Liquidation Transaction), (d) be less tax efficient for customers than a third-party transaction, (e) strand certain

cryptocurrency coins, which can be withdrawn by customers from certain third-party exchanges (like Binance.US) but not from Voyager, 119 and (f) may severely damage the value of the VGX token, which is the native token of the Voyager brokerage platform.

- 98. The Debtors believe that the Sale Transaction represents the most efficient and appropriate means of maximizing the value of the Debtors' estates. Moreover, the Sale Transaction is appropriate under section 1123(b)(4) as it is to be effectuated pursuant to the Plan, which, for the reasons set forth in herein, satisfies all of the requirements to be confirmed. For the foregoing reasons, the Debtors believe that entering into the Sale Transaction is a sound exercise of their business judgment and represents the best path forward for the Debtors, their creditors, and other parties in interest. Accordingly, the Sale Transaction should be approved.
- 99. The Debtors submit that the discretionary provisions of the Plan are consistent with and permissible under section 1123(b) of the Bankruptcy Code. In light of the foregoing, because the Plan fully complies with section 1122 and 1123 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtors submit that the Plan fully complies with and satisfies the requirements of section 1129(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code.

4. The Plan Complies with Section 1123(d) of the Bankruptcy Code.

100. Section 1123(d) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that "if it is proposed in a plan to cure a default the amount necessary to cure the default shall be determined in accordance with the underlying agreement and nonbankruptcy law."¹²⁰

The Debtors understand that 35 tokens, representing approximately 20% of the value of all tokens held by Voyager, are not able to be withdrawn by customers from Voyager due to technical limitations but can be withdrawn by customers from Binance. US following consummation of the proposed transaction.

¹²⁰ 11 U.S.C. § 1123(d).

101. The Plan complies with section 1123(d) of the Bankruptcy Code. The Plan provides for the satisfaction of monetary defaults under each Executory Contract and Unexpired Lease to be assumed under the Plan by payment of the default amount, if any, on the Effective Date, subject to the limitations described in Article V.D of the Plan or the Confirmation Order. 121 In accordance with Article V.D of the Plan and section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtors provided notice of the amount and timing of payment of any cure payments to the parties to the applicable assumed Executory Contracts or Unexpired Leases as part of the Plan Supplement. The Plan also sets forth procedures for counterparties to assumed Executory Contracts or Unexpired Leases to follow in the event they submit a request for payment that differs from ordinary course amounts paid or proposed to be paid by the Debtors. Accordingly, the Plan satisfies the requirements of section 1123(d) of the Bankruptcy Code, and no party has asserted otherwise.

B. The Debtors Complied with the Applicable Provisions of the Bankruptcy Code (§ 1129(a)(2)).

102. The principal purpose of section 1129(a)(2) is to ensure that a plan proponent has complied with the requirements of the Bankruptcy Code regarding solicitation of acceptances of a plan.¹²² The legislative history to section 1129(a)(2) provides that section 1129(a)(2) is intended to encompass the disclosure and solicitation requirements set forth in section 1125 and the plan acceptance requirements set forth in section 1126 of the Bankruptcy Code.¹²³ As set forth below,

¹²¹ See Plan Art. V.D.

See, e.g., In re Texaco Inc., 84 B.R. 893, 906-07 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1988) ("The principal purpose of Section 1129(a)(2) is to assure that the proponents have complied with the requirements of section 1125 in the solicitation of acceptances to the plan."); In re Johns-Manville Corp., 68 B.R. at 629-30 ("Objections to confirmation raised under § 1129(a)(2) generally involve the alleged failure of the plan proponent to comply with § 1125 and § 1126 of the Code.... These sections provide for the appropriate manner of disclosure and solicitation of plan votes."); In re Toy & Sports Warehouse, Inc., 37 B.R. 141, 149 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1984) (Section 1129(a)(2) requires that "the proponent must comply with the ban on post-petition solicitation of the plan unaccompanied by a written disclosure statement approved by the court in accordance with Code §§ 1125 and 1126.").

In re Lapworth, No. 97-34529 (DWS), 1998 WL 767456, at *3 (Bankr. E.D. Pa. Nov. 2, 1998) ("The legislative history of § 1129(a)(2) specifically identifies compliance with the disclosure requirements of § 1125 as a

the Debtors have complied with these provisions, including sections 1125 and 1126 of the Bankruptcy Code, as well as Bankruptcy Rules 3017 and 3018, by distributing the Disclosure Statement and soliciting acceptances of the Plan through their Claims, Noticing, and Solicitation Agent in accordance with the Disclosure Statement Order.

1. The Debtors Complied with Section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code.

103. Section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code prohibits the solicitation of acceptances or rejections of a plan of reorganization "unless, at the time of or before such solicitation, there is transmitted to such holder the plan or a summary of the plan, and a written disclosure statement approved, after notice and a hearing, by the court as containing adequate information." Section 1125 ensures that parties in interest are fully informed regarding the debtor's condition so that they may make an informed decision whether to approve or reject the plan. 125

104. Section 1125 is satisfied here. Before the Debtors solicited votes on the Plan, the Court conditionally approved the Disclosure Statement in accordance with section 1125(a)(1).¹²⁶ The Court also approved the Solicitation Packages provided to Holders of Claims entitled to vote on the Plan, the non-voting materials provided to parties not entitled to vote on the Plan, and the relevant dates for voting and objecting to the Plan.¹²⁷ As stated in the Voting Report, the Debtors,

requirement of § 1129(a)(2)."); *In re Worldcom, Inc.*, 2003 WL 23861928 at *49 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Oct. 31, 2003) (stating that section 1129(a)(2) requires plan proponents to comply with applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, including "disclosure and solicitation requirements under sections 1125 and 1126 of the Bankruptcy Code").

¹²⁴ 11 U.S.C. § 1125(b).

See Momentum Mfg. Corp. v. Emp. Creditors Comm. (In re Momentum Mfg. Corp.), 25 F.3d 1132, 1136 (2d Cir. 1994) (finding that section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code obliges a debtor to engage in full and fair disclosure that would enable a hypothetical reasonable investor to make an informed judgment about the plan).

¹²⁶ See Docket No. 861.

¹²⁷ *Id*.

through the Claims, Noticing, and Solicitation Agent, complied with the content and delivery requirements of the Disclosure Statement Order, thereby satisfying sections 1125(a) and (b) of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors also satisfied section 1125(c) of the Bankruptcy Code, which provides that the same disclosure statement must be transmitted to each holder of a claim or interest in a particular Class. Here, the Debtors caused the Disclosure Statement to be transmitted to all parties entitled to vote on the Plan and parties deemed to reject the Plan. 129

105. Based on the foregoing, the Debtors submit that they have complied in all respects with the solicitation requirements of section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code and the Disclosure Statement Order, and no party has asserted otherwise.

2. The Debtors Complied with Section 1126 of the Bankruptcy Code.

106. Section 1126 of the Bankruptcy Code provides that only holders of allowed claims and equity interests in impaired classes that will receive or retain property under a plan on account of such claims or equity interests may vote to accept or reject a plan. As noted above, the Debtors did not solicit votes on the Plan from the following Classes:

- Classes 1 (Secured Tax Claims) and 2 (Other Priority Claims), which are Unimpaired under the Plan (collectively, the "<u>Unimpaired Classes</u>"). ¹³¹ Pursuant to section 1126(f) of the Bankruptcy Code, Holders of Claims in the Unimpaired Classes are conclusively presumed to have accepted the Plan and, therefore, were not entitled to vote on the Plan.
- Class 5 (Alameda Loan Facility Claims), Class 6 (Section 510(b) Claims), and Class 9 (Existing Equity Interests), which are Impaired and receiving no recovery under the Plan (the "<u>Deemed Rejecting Classes</u>"). 132 Pursuant to section 1126(g)

¹²⁸ See Voting Report ¶ 5; see also Affidavit of Solicitation.

See id. at \P 6; see also generally Affidavit of Solicitation.

¹³⁰ See 11 U.S.C. § 1126.

¹³¹ See Plan, Art. III.B.

¹³² *Id*.

of the Bankruptcy Code, Holders of Claims and Interests in the Deemed Rejecting Classes are deemed to have rejected the Plan and, therefore, were not entitled to vote on the Plan.

- The treatment of Class 7 (Intercompany Claims) will be determined by the Court, and Class 8 (Intercompany Interests) may be Impaired or Unimpaired under the Plan at the option of the Debtors. Pursuant to section 1126(f) or 1126(g) of the Bankruptcy Code, as applicable, Holders of Claims in Class 8 are conclusively presumed to have accepted the Plan or rejected the Plan, as applicable, and, therefore, were not entitled to vote on the Plan.
- 107. Accordingly, the Debtors solicited votes only from Holders of Allowed Claims in the Voting Classes—Classes 3, 4A, 4B, and 4C—because each of these Classes is Impaired and entitled to receive a distribution under the Plan.¹³³ With respect to the Voting Classes of Claims, section 1126(c) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that:

A class of claims has accepted a plan if such plan has been accepted by creditors, other than any entity designated under subsection (e) of [section 1126], that hold at least two-thirds in amount and more than one-half in number of the allowed claims of such class held by creditors, other than any entity designated under subsection (e) of [section 1126], that have accepted or rejected such plan.¹³⁴

108. The Voting Report, summarized above, reflects the results of the voting process in accordance with section 1126 of the Bankruptcy Code. Based on the foregoing, the Debtors submit that they have satisfied the requirements of section 1129(a)(2), and no party has asserted otherwise.

C. The Plan Was Proposed in Good Faith (§ 1129(a)(3)).

109. Section 1129(a)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that a chapter 11 plan be "proposed in good faith and not by any means forbidden by law." The Second Circuit has

¹³³ *Id. See generally* Affidavit of Solicitation.

^{134 11} U.S.C. § 1126(c).

See generally Voting Report, Exhibit A.

^{136 11} U.S.C. § 1129(a)(3); see also In re Gaston & Snow, Nos. 93-8517 (JGK), 93-8628 (JGK), 1996 WL 694421, at *9 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 4, 1996).

construed the good-faith standard in the bankruptcy context as "requiring a showing that the plan was proposed with honesty and good intentions and with a basis for expecting that the reorganization can be effected." Additionally, courts generally hold that "good faith" should be evaluated in light of the totality of the circumstances surrounding confirmation. In the context of plans of reorganization, "a plan is proposed in good faith if there is a reasonable likelihood that the plan will achieve a result consistent with the standards prescribed under the [Bankruptcy] Code." The Court is in the best position to assess the good faith of the parties' proposals. In the context of the parties of the parti

110. The Plan was proposed with integrity, good intentions, and with the goal of maximizing stakeholder recoveries. Throughout these cases, the Debtors, the Debtors' board of directors, and their senior management team have upheld their fiduciary duties to stakeholders and protected the interests of all constituents. The Plan follows an extensive marketing process to solicit proposals for an acquisition of the Debtors' business and extensive arm's-length negotiations among the Debtors, the Purchaser, the Committee, and other parties in interest and provides stakeholders with the highest possible recoveries under the circumstances. ¹⁴¹ Indeed, the Debtors' management team and advisors expended countless hours to conduct a comprehensive and complex marketing process, prepared and filed motions to expand the Company's staking

Kane v. Johns-Manville Corp., 843 F.2d 636, 649 (2d Cir. 1988) (internal citations and quotations omitted); see also Manati Sugar Co. v. Mock, 75 F.2d 284, 285 (2d Cir. 1935); In re Texaco Inc., 84 B.R. at 907 (holding that, generally, a plan is proposed in good faith "if there is a likelihood that the plan will achieve a result consistent with the standards prescribed under the Code.") (internal citations omitted); Drexel, 138 B.R. at 759; In re Gaston & Snow, 1996 WL 694421, at *9 ("In this context, the failure to propose a plan in good faith occurs when the Plan is not proposed with honesty, good intentions, and to effectuate the reorganization of the enterprise, but rather for some other motive.") (internal citations omitted).

¹³⁸ See, e.g., In re Cellular Info. Sys., Inc., 171 B.R. 926, 945 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1994) (collecting cases).

¹³⁹ In re Toy & Sports Warehouse, Inc., 37 B.R. 141, 149 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1984) (citations omitted).

¹⁴⁰ *Adelphia*, 368 B.R. at 247.

¹⁴¹ See Tichenor Decl. ¶ 40.

activity, sold non-core assets, including the Coinify business, and evaluated and negotiated the Restructuring Transactions to provide the most value for their stakeholders. Similarly, after FTX's unexpected collapse, the Debtors' management team and advisors swiftly reengaged in negotiations with numerous potential counterparties to evaluate potential transactions with the goal of maximizing value for Account Holders and other parties in interest. Following good-faith, arm's-length negotiations with all interested parties, the Debtors' management team and advisors selected the proposal from Binance.US. Importantly, the Plan is supported by the Committee and Holders of Account Holder Claims. Accordingly, the Plan and the Debtors' conduct satisfy section 1129(a)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code.

- D. The Plan Provides that the Debtors' Payment of Professional Fees and Expenses Are Subject to Court Approval (§ 1129(a)(4)).
- 111. Section 1129(a)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that certain fees and expenses paid by the plan proponent, by the debtor, or by a person receiving distributions of property under the plan, be subject to approval by the Court as reasonable. Courts have construed this section to require that all payments of professional fees paid out of estate assets be subject to review and approval by the Court as to their reasonableness.
- 112. The Plan satisfies section 1129(a)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code. All payments made or to be made by the Debtors for services or for costs or expenses in connection with these chapter 11 cases prior to the Confirmation Date, including all Professional Fee Claims, have been

¹⁴² *Id*.

¹⁴³ See Docket No. 837.

¹⁴⁴ 11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(4).

¹⁴⁵ See, e.g., Worldcom, Inc., 2003 WL 23861928, at *54; Drexel, 138 B.R. at 760.

¹⁴⁶ See Renzi Decl. ¶ 39.

approved by, or are subject to approval of, the Court.¹⁴⁷ Article II.B of the Plan provides that all final requests for payment of Professional Fee Claims shall be filed no later than 45 days after the Effective Date for determination by the Court, after notice and a hearing, in accordance with the procedures established by the Court.¹⁴⁸ Accordingly, the Plan fully complies with the requirements of section 1129(a)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code, and no party has asserted otherwise.

E. The Plan Does Not Require Additional Disclosures Regarding Directors, Officers, and Insiders (§ 1129(a)(5)).

113. The Bankruptcy Code requires the plan proponent to disclose the affiliation of any individual proposed to serve as a director or officer of the debtor or a successor to the debtor under the plan.¹⁴⁹ Section 1129(a)(5)(A)(ii) further requires that the appointment or continuance of such officers and directors be consistent with the interests of creditors and equity security holders and with public policy.¹⁵⁰

114. The Plan satisfies section 1129(a)(5). As set forth in Article IV.H of the Plan, on the Effective Date, the Wind-Down Debtor Assets shall, subject to the Plan Administrator Agreement, be transferred to and vest in the Wind-Down Debtor. The Wind-Down Debtor shall be the successor-in-interest to the Debtors and the Debtors' rights, title, and interest in the Wind-Down Debtor Assets. The Wind-Down Debtor shall be managed by the Plan Administrator and shall be subject to a Wind-Down Debtor Oversight Committee. As such, section 1129(a)(5) of the Bankruptcy Code is inapplicable to the Plan. To the extent section 1129(a)(5) applies to the Wind-Down Debtor, it will have satisfied the requirements of this provision by, among other

¹⁴⁷ See Plan, Art. II.

¹⁴⁸ *Id*.

¹⁴⁹ 11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(5)(A)(i).

^{150 11} U.S.C. § 1129(a)(5)(A)(ii).

things, disclosing the identity of the Plan Administrator and the Wind-Down Debtor Oversight

Committee in the Plan Supplement. 151

115. In addition, section 1129(a)(5)(B) also requires a plan proponent to disclose the identity of any "insider" (as defined by 11 U.S.C. § 101(31)) to be employed or retained by the reorganized debtor and the nature of any compensation for such insider. Here, on or after the Effective Date, the Wind-Down Debtor shall be deemed to have withdrawn its business operations from any state in which the Debtors were previously conducting business. After, among other things, effectuating final distributions pursuant to the Plan and filing a certificate of dissolution with the Court, the Wind-Down Debtor shall be dissolved in accordance with the Plan Administrator Agreement. Because no individual person shall serve as a director, officer, or voting trustee of a reorganized Debtor and no individual, including any insider, will be employed by the Debtors following the Effective Date, section 1129(a)(5)(B) is inapplicable to the Plan, and no party has asserted otherwise.

F. The Plan Does Not Require Governmental Regulatory Approval (§ 1129(a)(6)).

116. Section 1129(a)(6) of the Bankruptcy Code permits confirmation only if any regulatory commission that has or will have jurisdiction over a debtor after confirmation has approved any rate change provided for in the plan. Section 1129(a)(6) of the Bankruptcy Code is inapplicable to these chapter 11 cases, and no party has asserted otherwise.

See Docket No. 1006, <u>Exhibit E</u>. The Plan Administrator will appoint an independent director at each Debtor to act as a fiduciary for such Debtor entity in connection with the resolution of Intercompany Claims.

¹⁵² 11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(5)(B).

¹⁵³ Plan, Art. IV.J.

G. The Plan Is in the Best Interests of All the Debtors' Creditors (§ 1129(a)(7)).

117. Section 1129(a)(7) of the Bankruptcy Code, commonly known as the "best interests test," provides, in relevant part:

With respect to each impaired class of claims or interests—

- (A) each holder of a claim or interest of such class—
 - (i) has accepted the plan; or
 - (ii) will receive or retain under the plan on account of such claim or interest property of a value, as of the effective date of the plan, that is not less than the amount that such holder would so receive or retain if the debtor were liquidated under chapter 7 of [the Bankruptcy Code] on such date ¹⁵⁴
- 118. The best interests test applies to individual dissenting holders of impaired claims and interests rather than classes and is generally satisfied through a comparison of the estimated recoveries for a debtor's stakeholders in a hypothetical chapter 7 liquidation of that debtor's estate the estimated recoveries under that debtor's plan of reorganization.¹⁵⁵ against As section 1129(a)(7) of the Bankruptcy Code makes clear, the best interests test applies only to holders of non-accepting impaired claims or interests. Here, all holders of Claims and Interests in all Impaired Classes will recover at least as much as a result of the confirmation of the Plan as they would in a hypothetical chapter 7 liquidation. 156 Accordingly, the Plan satisfies section 1129(a)(7) of the Bankruptcy Code and the best interests test.

¹¹ U.S.C. § 1129(a)(7)(A). See also Adelphia, 368 B.R. at 252 ("In determining whether the best interests standard is met, the court must measure what is to be received by rejecting creditors in the impaired classes under the plan against what would be received by them in the event of liquidation under chapter 7.").

Bank of Am. Nat. Trust & Sav. Ass'n v. 203 N. LaSalle St. P'ship, 526 U.S. 434, 441 n.13 (1999) ("The 'best interests' test applies to individual creditors holding impaired claims, even if the class as a whole votes to accept the plan."); Century Glove, 1993 WL 239489, at *7; Adelphia, 368 B.R. at 251 (stating that section 1129(a)(7) is satisfied when an impaired holder of claims would receive "no less than such holder would receive in a hypothetical chapter 7 liquidation").

¹⁵⁶ See Renzi Decl. ¶ 54.

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 77 of 135

To demonstrate compliance with section 1129(a)(7) of the Bankruptcy Code, the

Debtors, with the assistance of Berkeley Research Group, the Debtors' restructuring advisors, prepared a liquidation analysis, which is attached to the Disclosure Statement as Exhibit B (the "Liquidation Analysis") and discussed at length in the Renzi Declaration. The Liquidation Analysis compares the projected range of recoveries that would result from the liquidation of the

Debtors in a hypothetical case under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code with the estimated

distributions to Holders of Allowed Claims and Interests under the Plan. 158 The Liquidation

Analysis is based on the value of the Debtors' assets and liabilities as of a certain date and

incorporates various estimates and assumptions, including a hypothetical conversion to a chapter 7

liquidation as of a certain date. 159 The illustrative recoveries provided in the Liquidation Analysis

are subject to potentially material change, including due to macroeconomic business conditions

and legal rulings. 160

119.

120. Based on the unaudited Liquidation Analysis, and the assumptions included therein,

the value of any distributions in a chapter 7 liquidation would be no greater than the value of

distributions under the Plan in either the Sale Transaction or Liquidation Transaction scenario. 161

As a result, Holders of Claims and Interests in all Impaired Classes will recover at least as much

as a result of confirmation of the Plan as they would recover through a hypothetical chapter 7

¹⁵⁷ See Renzi Decl. ¶¶ 66–105.

¹⁵⁸ See id.

¹⁵⁹ See id.

¹⁶⁰ See id. at ¶¶ 76–85.

¹⁶¹ See id. at ¶ 105.

liquidation. 162 Based on the recoveries set forth in the Liquidation Analysis, the Plan satisfies the best interests test as required by the Bankruptcy Code.

H. The Plan Is Confirmable Notwithstanding the Requirements of Section 1129(a)(8) of the Bankruptcy Code.

121. Section 1129(a)(8) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that each class of claims or interests must either accept a plan or be unimpaired under a plan. ¹⁶³ If any class of claims or interests rejects the plan, the plan must satisfy the "cramdown" requirements with respect to the claims or interests in that class. ¹⁶⁴

122. Here, the Plan satisfies either the voting requirements or the "cramdown" requirements with respect to each Class. Class 3 (Account Holder Claims), Class 4B (HoldCo General Unsecured Claims), and Class 4C (TopCo General Unsecured Claims), which are impaired under the Plan, voted overwhelmingly to accept the Plan. The Debtors did not receive any votes from Holders of Claims in Class 4A (OpCo General Unsecured Claims). Class 1 (Secured Tax Claims) and Class 2 (Other Priority Claims) are Unimpaired and are presumed to accept the Plan. Class 7 (Intercompany Claims) and Class 8 (Intercompany Interests) are deemed to accept or reject depending on their ultimate treatment. The remaining Classes, Class 5 (Alameda Loan Facility), Class 6 (Section 510(b) Claims), and Class 9 (Existing Equity Interests) are deemed to reject the Plan. As discussed below, the Plan satisfies the "cramdown" requirements of section 1129(b) with respect to all Classes that are Impaired under but have not voted to accept the Plan.

¹⁶² See id. at ¶¶ 54, 66.

¹⁶³ 11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(8).

¹⁶⁴ 11 U.S.C. § 1129(b).

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 79 of 135

123. Therefore, the Plan satisfies section 1129(a)(8) or otherwise satisfies the "cramdown" requirements of the Bankruptcy Code, and no party has asserted otherwise. 165

I. The Plan Provides for Payment in Full of All Allowed Priority Claims (§ 1129(a)(9)).

Section 1129(a)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that certain priority claims be 124. paid in full on the effective date of a plan and that the holders of certain other priority claims receive deferred cash payments. 166 In particular, pursuant to section 1129(a)(9)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code, holders of claims of a kind specified in section 507(a)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code—administrative claims allowed under section 503(b) of the Bankruptcy Code must receive on the effective date cash equal to the allowed amount of such claims. 167 Section 1129(a)(9)(B) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that each holder of a claim of a kind specified in section 507(a)(1) or (4) through (7) of the Bankruptcy Code—generally wage, employee benefit, and deposit claims entitled to priority—must receive deferred cash payments of a value, as of the effective date of the plan, equal to the allowed amount of such claim (if such class has accepted the plan), or cash of a value equal to the allowed amount of such claim on the effective date of the plan (if such class has not accepted the plan). Finally, section 1129(a)(9)(C) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that the holder of a claim of a kind specified in section 507(a)(8) of the Bankruptcy Code—i.e., priority tax claims—must receive cash payments over a period not to exceed five years from the petition date, the present value of which equals the allowed amount of the claim.

¹⁶⁵ See Renzi Decl., ¶ 55.

^{166 11} U.S.C. § 1129(a)(9).

¹⁶⁷ 11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(9)(A).

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 80 of 135

125. The Plan satisfies section 1129(a)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code. First, Article II.A of the Plan satisfies section 1129(a)(9)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code because it provides that each holder of an Allowed Administrative Claim allowed on or prior to the Effective Date will receive payment in full in Cash no later than thirty (30) days after the Effective Date or as soon as practicable thereafter. Second, Article III.C.2 of the Plan satisfies reasonably section 1129(a)(9)(B) of the Bankruptcy Code because it provides that holders of the types of Claims specified by 1129(a)(9)(B) shall receive either payment in full in cash or such other treatment as to render such holders unimpaired. Third, Article II.C of the Plan satisfies section 1129(a)(9)(C) of the Bankruptcy Code because it provides that holders of Allowed Priority Tax Claims will be treated in accordance with the terms set forth in section 1129(a)(9)(C) of the Bankruptcy Code. The Plan thus satisfies each of the requirements of section 1129(a)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code, and no party has asserted otherwise.

J. At Least One Class of Impaired, Non-Insider Claims Accepted the Plan (§ 1129(a)(10)).

- 126. Section 1129(a)(10) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that, to the extent there is an impaired class of claims, at least one impaired class of claims must accept the plan, "without including any acceptance of the plan by any insider," as an alternative to the requirement under section 1129(a)(8) of the Bankruptcy Code that each class of claims or interests must either accept the plan or be unimpaired under the plan.¹⁶⁸
- 127. As set forth above, Holders of Claims in Classes 3, 4B, and 4C—which are Impaired Classes under the Plan—overwhelmingly voted to accept the Plan independent of any

¹⁶⁸ 11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(10).

insiders' votes. 169 The Debtors did not receive any votes from Holders of Claims in Class 4A. Thus, the Debtors respectfully submit that the Plan satisfies the requirements of section 1129(a)(10) of the Bankruptcy Code, and no party has asserted otherwise.

K. The Plan Is Feasible (§ 1129(a)(11)).

128. Section 1129(a)(11) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that the Court determine, in relevant part, that confirmation is not likely to be followed by the liquidation or further financial reorganization of the Debtors (or any successor thereto), unless such liquidation or reorganization is proposed in the Plan. This requirement has been interpreted by courts in this district as requiring a determination that the Plan "has a reasonable likelihood of success." Importantly, "the feasibility inquiry is peculiarly fact intensive and requires a case-by-case analysis, using as a backdrop the relatively low parameters articulated in the statute There is a relatively low threshold of proof necessary to satisfy the feasibility requirement." Section 1129(a)(11) does not require the Debtors to guarantee the Plan's complete success. Instead, and to satisfy the feasibility requirement, the Debtors must show that the Plan has a reasonable chance of success.

¹⁶⁹ See Voting Report, Exhibit A.

See In re Adelphia Bus. Sols., Inc., 341 B.R. 415, 421-22 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2003) ("[T]he feasibility standard is whether the plan offers a reasonable assurance of success." Success need not be guaranteed.) (citing Kane v. Johns-Manville, 843 F.2d at 649); Texaco, 84 B.R. at 910 (plan is feasible if there is a "reasonable assurance of commercial viability"); In re Prudential Energy Co., 58 B.R. 857, 862 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1986) ("Guaranteed success in the stiff winds of commerce without the protection of the Code is not the standard under § 1129(a)(11).").

See Mercury Capital Corp. v. Milford Conn. Assocs., L.P., 354 B.R. 1, 9 (D. Conn. 2006), remanded, No. 04-30511, 2008 WL 687266 (Bankr. D. Conn. Mar. 10, 2008), ("[A] 'relatively low threshold of proof' will satisfy the feasibility requirement.") (quoting In re Brotby, 303 B.R. 177, 191–92 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2003)); Berkeley Fed. Bank & Trust v. Sea Garden Motel and Apartments (In re Sea Garden Motel and Apartments), 195 B.R. 294, 304–05 (D.N.J. 1996); In re Eddington Thread Mfg. Co., 181 B.R. 826, 833 (Bankr. E.D. Pa. 1995) ("[T]he feasibility inquiry is peculiarly fact intensive and requires a case by case analysis, using as a backdrop the relatively broad parameters articulated in the statute.").

See In re Aleris Int'l, Inc., No. 09-10478 (BLS), 2010 WL 3492664, at *27–29 (Bankr. D. Del. May 13, 2010). Accord Kane, 843 F.2d at 649 ("[T]he feasibility standard is whether the plan offers a reasonable assurance of success. Success need not be guaranteed.").

- 129. Here, the Plan satisfies the feasibility requirements of section 1129(a)(11) of the Bankruptcy Code by providing for a clear path to emergence from these chapter 11 cases and the ability of the Debtors to satisfy all of their obligations under the Plan. The implied value of Binance.US's offer is \$1.022 billion, comprising:
 - the value of cryptocurrency on the Voyager platform as of a date to be determined, which as of December 19, 2022 at 0:00 UTC, is estimated to be \$1.002 billion, plus
 - additional consideration, which is estimated to provide at least \$20 million of incremental value; and
 - additional benefits such as:
 - o providing the most tax efficient route forward as the Binance.US Platform will provide the means for Account Holders to access 100% of the cryptocurrency types held by Account Holders on the Debtors' platform;
 - o being the only transaction available to the Debtors that did not require the Debtors to liquidate cryptocurrency for working capital purposes;
 - o including reimbursement by Binance.US of up to \$15 million of Seller's expenses;
 - o providing a \$10 million reverse termination fee payable to the Seller by Binance.US to compensate the Debtors' estates in the event that Binance.US cannot consummate the transaction; and
 - o in the event that the Debtors pivot to the Liquidation Transaction, provides that Binance.US will provide certain services to facilitate such transaction to ensure that the Debtors can rely on the Binance.US Platform to minimize leakage with and cybersecurity risks when returning cryptocurrency to creditors.
- 130. The Debtors project that in both the Sale Transaction and Liquidation Transaction scenarios there will be sufficient value to satisfy all Priority and Administrative Claims under the Plan, including all Professional Fee Claims.¹⁷³ As such, the Debtors have a demonstrated ability to fund distributions required under the Plan, including to taxing authorities, administrative

¹⁷³ *See* Renzi Decl. ¶ 108.

claimants, and other Unimpaired Classes of Claims.¹⁷⁴ Following consummation of the Sale Transaction or the Liquidation Transaction, as applicable, the Plan provides for an orderly wind down and dissolution of the Debtors and the Wind-Down Debtor.

131. Accordingly, the Debtors submit that the Plan fully complies with and satisfies all of the requirements of section 1129(a)(11) of the Bankruptcy Code.

L. All Statutory Fees Have Been or Will Be Paid (§ 1129(a)(12)).

- 132. Section 1129(a)(12) of the Bankruptcy Code requires the payment of "[a]ll fees payable under section 1930 of title 28 [of the United States Code], as determined by the court at the hearing on confirmation of the plan." Section 507(a)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that "any fees and charges assessed against the estate under [section 1930 of] chapter 123 of title 28" are afforded priority as administrative expenses.
- Article XII.C of the Plan provides that all fees and applicable interest payable pursuant to section 1930 of the Judicial Code and 31 U.S.C. § 3717, as applicable, as determined by the Court at a hearing pursuant to section 1128 of the Bankruptcy Code, shall be paid by the Wind-Down Debtor (or the Distribution Agent on behalf of the Wind-Down Debtor) for each quarter (including any fraction thereof) until the chapter 11 cases are converted, dismissed, or a Final Decree is issued, whichever occurs first. Accordingly, the Debtors submit that the Plan fully complies with and satisfies the requirements of section 1129(a)(12) of the Bankruptcy Code, and no party has asserted otherwise.

¹⁷⁴ See Renzi Decl. ¶ 106–13.

M. No Remaining Retiree Benefits Obligations (§ 1129(a)(13)).

134. Section 1129(a)(13) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that all retiree benefits continue post-confirmation at any levels established in accordance with section 1114 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors do not have any remaining obligations to pay retiree benefits (as defined in section 1114 of the Bankruptcy Code). Therefore, section 1129(a)(13) of the Bankruptcy Code is inapplicable to these chapter 11 cases, and no party has asserted otherwise.

N. Sections 1129(a)(14) through 1129(a)(16) Do Not Apply to the Plan.

135. Section 1129(a)(14) of the Bankruptcy Code relates to the payment of domestic support obligations. Because the Debtors are not subject to any domestic support obligations, the requirements section 1129(a)(14) of the Bankruptcy Code do of not apply. Likewise, section 1129(a)(15) of the Bankruptcy Code applies only in cases in which the debtor is an "individual" as defined in the Bankruptcy Code. Because none of the Debtors is an "individual," the requirements of section 1129(a)(15) of the Bankruptcy Code do not apply. Finally, each of the Debtors are a moneyed, business, or commercial corporation or trust, and therefore, section 1129(a)(16) of the Bankruptcy Code, which provides that property transfers by a corporation or trust that is not a moneyed, business, or commercial corporation or trust be made in accordance with any applicable provisions of nonbankruptcy law, is not applicable to the chapter 11 cases. Accordingly, the Debtors respectfully submit that the Plan is not subject to the requirements of section 1129(a)(14)-(16) of the Bankruptcy Code, and no party has asserted otherwise.

O. The Plan Satisfies the "Cram Down" Requirements of Section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.

136. Section 1129(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that, if all applicable requirements of section 1129(a) of the Bankruptcy Code are met other than section 1129(a)(8) of

the Bankruptcy Code, a plan may be confirmed so long as the requirements set forth in section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code are satisfied. To confirm a plan that has not been accepted by all impaired classes (thereby failing to satisfy section 1129(a)(8) of the Bankruptcy Code), the plan proponent must show that the plan does not "discriminate unfairly" and is "fair and equitable" with respect to the non-accepting impaired classes.¹⁷⁵

137. As noted above, Class 3, Class 4A, Class 4B, and Class 4C, which are Impaired Classes of Claims entitled to vote on the Plan, have voted in favor of the Plan. However, the Deemed Rejecting Class have or are deemed to have rejected the Plan. Nonetheless, as set forth below, the Plan satisfies the requirements under section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, and no party has asserted otherwise.

1. The Plan Is Fair and Equitable (§ 1129(b)(2)(B)(ii)).

138. A plan is "fair and equitable" with respect to an impaired class of claims or interests that rejects a plan (or is deemed to reject a plan) if it follows the "absolute priority" rule.¹⁷⁶ This requires that an impaired rejecting class of claims or interests either be paid in full or that a class junior to the impaired accepting class not receive any distribution under a plan on account of its junior claim or interest.¹⁷⁷

In re John Hancock Mut. Life Ins. Co., 987 F.2d 154, 157 n.5 (3d Cir. 1993); In re Ambanc La Mesa L.P., 115 F.3d 650, 653 (9th Cir. 1997) ("the [p]lan satisfies the 'cramdown' alternative . . . found in 11 U.S.C. § 1129(b), which requires that the [p]lan 'does not discriminate unfairly' against and 'is fair and equitable' towards each impaired class that has not accepted the [p]lan.").

Bank of Am., 526 U.S. at 441–42 ("As to a dissenting class of impaired unsecured creditors, such a plan may be found to be 'fair and equitable' only if the allowed value of the claim is to be paid in full, § 1129(b)(2)(B)(i), or, in the alternative, if 'the holder of any claim or interest that is junior to the claims of such [impaired unsecured] class will not receive or retain under the plan on account of such junior claim or interest any property,' § 1129(b)(2)(B)(ii). That latter condition is the core of what is known as the 'absolute priority rule.'").

¹⁷⁷ *Id*.

139. The Plan satisfies section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code. Notwithstanding the fact that the Deemed Rejecting Classes are deemed to have rejected the Plan, the Plan is confirmable. Class 5 (Alameda Loan Facility Claims) is comprised of all Alameda Loan Facility Claims. Class 6 (Section 510(b) Claims) is comprised of all Section 510(b) Claims. Class 9 (Existing Equity Interests) is composed of all existing equity Interests in TopCo. There are no Claims or Interests that are junior to Alameda Loan Facility Claims, Section 510(b) Claims, or Existing Equity Interests that are receiving any recovery under the Plan before any Class that is senior in priority, nor is any Holder of a Claim or Interest receiving more than payment in full of its Claim or Interest.

2. The Plan Does Not Unfairly Discriminate with Respect to the Impaired Classes that Have Not Voted to Accept the Plan (§ 1129(b)(1)).

140. Although the Bankruptcy Code does not provide a standard for determining when "unfair discrimination" exists, courts typically examine the facts and circumstances of the particular case to make the determination.¹⁷⁹ In general, courts have held that a plan unfairly discriminates in violation of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code only if it provides materially different treatment for creditors and interest holders with similar legal rights without compelling justifications for doing so.¹⁸⁰ Courts in the Second Circuit have ruled that "[u]nder section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, a plan unfairly discriminates where similarly situated classes are treated differently without a reasonable basis for the disparate treatment."¹⁸¹

To the extent any rejecting class amends its vote and determines to accept the Plan, the Debtors will file an amended voting declaration to reflect such update.

See In re Jewish Memorial Hosp., 13 B.R. 417, 420 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1981) ("[T]he Bankruptcy Act does not establish inexorable rules for distribution that can never be deviated from in the interest of justice and equity.").

¹⁸⁰ See WorldCom, 2003 WL 23861928 at *59 (requiring a reasonable basis to justify disparate treatment).

¹⁸¹ Id.; see also In re Buttonwood Partners, Ltd., 111 B.R. 57, 63 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1990) (in evaluating unfair discrimination, courts assess whether "(i) there is a reasonable basis for discriminating, (ii) the debtor cannot

Rejecting Classes) is proper because all similarly situated Holders of Claims and Interests will receive substantially similar treatment and the Plan's classification scheme rests on a legally acceptable rationale. Claims in the Deemed Rejecting Classes are not similarly situated to any other Classes given their distinctly different legal character from all other Claims and Interests. The Plan's treatment of the Deemed Rejecting Classes is proper because no similarly situated class will receive more favorable treatment. Furthermore, where the Plan provides differing treatment for certain Classes of Claims or Interests, the Debtors have a rational basis for doing so.

142. The Debtors have also resolved certain section 1129(b)(1) issues raised by Holders of Alameda Loan Facility Claims and the AHG. Holders of Alameda Loan Facility Claims have agreed that if the FTX Settlement¹⁸² becomes effective, such claims will be treated pursuant to the FTX Settlement; however, if the FTX Settlement does not become effective, the Debtors will seek to equitably subordinate the Alameda Loan Facility Claims provided that if the Court denies equitable subordination of the Alameda Loan Facility Claims, such claims shall be *pari passu* with General Unsecured Claims at the applicable Debtor entity. Pursuant to the Debtors' agreement with the AHG, the treatment of Intercompany Claims will be determined by the Court.

143. For the reasons set forth above, the Plan does not discriminate unfairly in contravention of section 1129(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code and the Plan may be confirmed notwithstanding the deemed rejection by the Deemed Rejecting Classes.

consummate the plan without discrimination, (iii) the discrimination is proposed in good faith, and (iv) the degree of discrimination is in direct proportion to its rationale," but also noting that the second prong assessing whether the debtor cannot consummate the plan without discrimination is not dispositive of the question of unfair discrimination).

¹⁸² See Docket No. 1106.

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 88 of 135

P. The Debtors Complied with Section 1129(d) of the Bankruptcy Code.

144. The purpose of the Plan is not to avoid taxes or the application of section 5 of the Securities Act. 183 As discussed in greater in section IV.H herein, the SEC's and New Jersey's assertions that the Plan *may* contravene the Securities Act and New Jersey law, 184 respectively, are speculative and hypothetical and cannot, absent a concrete ruling from the SEC or New Jersey as to the status of cryptocurrency as a security, be permitted to hinder the Plan that enjoys the overwhelming support of all voting classes, including over 97 percent of Account Holders and 98 percent in amount of Account Holder Claims actually voting, from receiving distributions pursuant to the Plan. Accordingly, the Plan satisfies the requirements of section 1129(d) of the Bankruptcy Code.

O. Modifications to the Plan.

145. Section 1127(a) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that a plan proponent may modify its plan at any time before confirmation as long as such modified plan meets the requirements of sections 1122 and 1123 of the Bankruptcy Code. Further, when the proponent of a plan files the plan with modifications with the court, the plan as modified becomes the plan. Bankruptcy Rule 3019 provides that modifications after a plan has been accepted will be deemed accepted by all creditors and equity security holders who have previously accepted the plan if the court finds that the proposed modifications do not adversely change the treatment of the claim of any creditor or the interest of any equity security holder. Interpreting Bankruptcy Rule 3019, courts consistently have held that a proposed modification to a previously accepted

¹⁸³ See Renzi Decl. ¶ 64.

SEC Objection ¶ 4; New Jersey Objection, ¶ 4.

plan will be deemed accepted where the proposed modification is not material or does not adversely affect the way creditors and stakeholders are treated.¹⁸⁵

146. Following solicitation, the Debtors made certain minor modifications to the Plan to resolve formal and informal comments to the Plan by parties in interest and to make technical modifications to treatment of certain classes and refine the description of the procedures governing the wind down of the Debtors' estates (collectively, the "Modifications"). The Modifications are immaterial or otherwise do not affect the treatment of creditors and stakeholders and thus comply with section 1127 of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 3019. Accordingly, the Debtors submit that no additional solicitation or disclosure is required on account of the Modifications, and that such Modifications should be deemed accepted by all creditors that previously accepted the Plan.

R. Good Cause Exists to Waive the Stay of the Confirmation Order.

147. Bankruptcy Rule 3020(e) provides that "[a]n order confirming a plan is stayed until the expiration of 14 days after the entry of the order, unless the Court orders otherwise." Bankruptcy Rules 6004(h) and 6006(d) provide similar stays to orders authorizing the use, sale or lease of property (other than cash collateral) and orders authorizing a debtor to assign an executory

See, e.g., In re Glob. Safety Textiles Holdings LLC, No. 09-12234 (KG), 2009 WL 6825278, at *4 (Bankr. D. Del. Nov. 30, 2009) (finding that nonmaterial modifications to plan do not require additional disclosure or resolicitation); In re Burns & Roe Enters., Inc., No. 08-4191 (GEB), 2009 WL 438694, at *23 (D.N.J. Feb. 23, 2009) (confirming plan as modified without additional solicitation or disclosure because modifications did "not adversely affect creditors").

See Third Amended Joint Plan of Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc. And Its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, filed contemporaneously herewith.

¹⁸⁷ Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3020(e).

contract or unexpired lease under section 365(f) of the Bankruptcy Code.¹⁸⁸ Each rule also permits modification of the imposed stay upon court order.¹⁸⁹

148. The Debtors submit that good cause exists for waiving and eliminating any stay of the Confirmation Order pursuant to Bankruptcy Rules 3020, 6004, and 6006 so that the Confirmation Order will be effective immediately upon its entry. As noted above, these chapter 11 cases and the related transactions have been negotiated and implemented in good faith and with a high degree of transparency and public dissemination of information. The Debtors have undertaken great effort to exit chapter 11 as soon as possible. Additionally, each day the Debtors remain in chapter 11 they incur significant administrative and professional costs.

149. In light of the requisite support by the Voting Classes, no parties will be prejudiced by waiver of the stay to facilitate the Debtors' swift emergence from chapter 11. Accordingly, the Debtors request a waiver of any stay imposed by the Bankruptcy Rules so that the Proposed Confirmation Order may be effective immediately upon its entry.

¹⁸⁸ Fed. R. Bankr. P. 6004(h), 6006(d).

¹⁸⁹ *Id*.

See, e.g., In re Chemtura Corp., No. 09-11233 (REG) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Nov. 23, 2010) (shortening the Bankruptcy Rule 3020(e) period due to the significant expense to the debtors' estates in delaying the effectiveness of the plan); In re Extended Stay Inc., No. 09-13764 (JMP) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. July 20, 2010) (waiving stay under Bankruptcy Rule 3020(e)); In re Penton Bus. Media Holdings, Inc., No. 10-10689 (AJG) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Mar. 5, 2010) (waiving the stay in Bankruptcy Rule 3020(e) in light of support for the plan by voting classes); In re Oldco M. Corp., No. 09-13412 (MG) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Feb. 23, 2010) (waiving the stay imposed by Bankruptcy Rule 3020(e) to permit a distribution trustee to commence its duties as quickly as practicable).

IV. The Objections to the Plan Should be Overruled.

150. Certain parties objected to Confirmation of the Plan and approval of the Disclosure Statement on a final basis.¹⁹¹ These Objections are without merit and should be overruled.

A. The Disclosure Statement Provides Adequate Information Regarding the Sale Transaction.

- that the Disclosure Statement does not include sufficient disclosure regarding the Sale Transaction. ¹⁹² In addition to the extensive detail provided in the Asset Purchase Agreement with respect to the Sale Transaction, the Disclosure Statement provides creditors with, among other details, a description of the FTX collapse and abandonment of the FTX Transaction, the recommencement of the marketing process and negotiation of the Binance.US APA, the consideration being offered by Binance.US, the treatment of Account Holders under the Plan, the mechanics of facilitating distributions to Account Holders, including the Rebalancing Exercise, anticipated distributions to Account Holders under the Sale Transaction and the Toggle Transaction, the Customer Onboarding Protocol, a detailed "Frequently Asked Questions" for Account Holders, and links to Binance.US's terms of service. ¹⁹³
- 152. The U.S. Trustee Objection demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding of the Sale Transaction, including the consideration paid by Binance.US and the total value of the Sale Transaction. The Debtors value the Sale Transaction at \$1.022 billion, which is comprised of

Of the remaining outstanding Objections, those that raise actual disclosure deficiencies have been addressed through additional language in the Disclosure Statement and those that raise actual objections to confirmation of the Plan have been addressed through additional language in the Plan or the Confirmation Order, as described herein and summarized in the chart attached hereto as Exhibit A (the "Objection Response Chart").

¹⁹² SEC Objection ¶¶ 4–6; U.S. Trustee Objection, sections B–C; Texas Objection ¶¶ 1–25.

¹⁹³ See Disclosure Statement, Articles II, V.B, VIII.N, Exhibit C.

\$1.002 billion of cryptocurrency on the Debtors' platform as of December 19, 2022, at 0:00 UTC plus an additional \$20 million of upfront consideration paid by Binance.US. Binance.US is acquiring substantially all of the cryptocurrency on the Debtors' platform, which will be distributed to Account Holders in accordance with the Plan, assuming certain obligations of the Debtors to Account Holders and other creditors, and paying incremental consideration to the Debtors in the amount of \$20 million. The Debtors are not required to transfer cryptocurrency to Binance.US to effectuate the Rebalancing Exercise—the Debtors can use any third-party provider to effectuate that transaction (or series of transactions) subject to Binance. US's right to match more favorable terms provided by a third party. Pursuant to the Asset Purchase Agreement, the Debtors will retain all right, title, and interest in their cryptocurrency prior to closing, including any cryptocurrency rebalanced with Binance.US or any other third-party. Following the closing, cryptocurrency will be transferred to Binance.US on a weekly basis as Account Holders sign up for accounts on the Binance.US platform and complete Binance.US's onboarding requirements. Binance. US must make cryptocurrency transferred to it available to those Account Holders within five business days, and must use commercially reasonable efforts to do so within 48 hours, following receipt thereof. Account Holders who receive cryptocurrency on Binance. US's platform will have the ability to access, trade, sell, stake, or withdraw their cryptocurrency subject to Binance.US's Terms of Use. Account Holders in Supported Jurisdictions who do not open Binance.US accounts in accordance with the Asset Purchase Agreement within three months of the Effective Date will have their cryptocurrency distributions liquidated into USD and distributed by the Debtors to such Account Holders. Cryptocurrency distributions to Account Holders in Unsupported Jurisdictions will not be delivered to Binance.US. Instead, the Debtors will retain control of such cryptocurrency until Binance.US has received the appropriate license,

authorization, or exemption, as applicable. If Binance.US does not receive such license, authorization, or exemption in an Unsupported Jurisdiction within six months following the Effective Date, the Debtors will cause the cryptocurrency distributions to Account Holders in such Unsupported Jurisdiction to be liquidated into cash and will distribute such cash to Account Holders in such Unsupported Jurisdiction.

- 153. Finally, contrary to the assertions of the SEC, the U.S. Trustee, and Texas, the Disclosure Statement clearly explains the terms and mechanics of the Sale Transaction and includes significant details with respect to the Sale Transaction and the Rebalancing Exercise. 194
 - B. The Disclosure Statement Provides Adequate Information as to Binance.US's Financial Condition and Solvency and the Feasibility of the Sale Transaction.
- 154. The U.S. Trustee and the SEC each question Binance.US's ability to consummate the Sale Transaction. 195 Neither offers any evidence to substantiate their concern.
- They ignore the fact that the Disclosure Statement provides disclosure as to the Debtors' understanding of the ability of Binance.US to consummate the proposed transaction and the basis for this understanding. Based on the Debtors' due diligence, which has included Binance.US's provision of proof of funds, the Debtors understand that Binance.US is sufficiently capitalized to consummate the Sale Transaction and that it utilizes a business model that makes it less susceptible to a "run on the bank" than business models of other companies in the cryptocurrency sector. Among other things, Binance.US has advised and the Debtors understand that: (i) Binance.US holds customer assets on a one-to-one basis, meaning that Binance.US has the ability and liquidity

¹⁹⁴ See Disclosure Statement, Art. V.A.4.

¹⁹⁵ SEC Objection, ¶¶ 5–6; U.S. Trustee Objection, section B.

¹⁹⁶ See Disclosure Statement, Art. V.B.1.

to meet all customer withdrawals at any time; (ii) Binance.US does not lend customer assets out to third parties; (iii) Binance.US's reserves exceed customer deposits; and (iv) Binance.US has sufficient capital to pay the upfront costs of up to \$35 million to consummate the Sale Transaction.¹⁹⁷

156. The U.S. Trustee Objection incorrectly claims that the Debtors did not conduct sufficient due diligence on Binance.US before entering into the Asset Purchase Agreement. The Debtors disclosed their diligence efforts undertaken in connection with the Asset Purchase Agreement in the Tichenor APA Declaration, which efforts included reviews of certain audited financial statements, interim unaudited financial statements, available liquidity, related party services agreements, wallet infrastructure, AML/KYC procedures, money transmitter licensing status, and business plans submitted to selected state regulators in connection with the issuance of money transmitter licenses. Mr. Tichenor also testified during the January 10, 2023, hearing to consider conditional approval of the Disclosure Statement and approval of the Debtors' entry into the Asset Purchase Agreement (the "DS/APA Hearing") and answered numerous questions from both interested parties and the Court. The U.S. Trustee appears to ignore all of this disclosure.

157. The SEC Objection alleges that the Debtors fail to inform stakeholders whether the Sale Transaction provides a meaningful economic benefit other than the \$20 million sale of Voyager's customer list to Binance.US.²⁰¹ This, too, is incorrect. Those additional economic

¹⁹⁷ *Id*.

¹⁹⁸ U.S. Trustee Objection, section B.

¹⁹⁹ See Tichenor APA Declaration ¶ 21.

²⁰⁰ In re Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc., No. 2210943 (MEW) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Jan. 10, 2023) Hr'g Tr. 23:8–58:4, 61:2–67:24; 156:1–157:15.

²⁰¹ See generally SEC Objection.

benefits were clearly laid out in the Debtors' Definitive Documents. Articles II.A, III, and V.B of the Disclosure Statement, paragraphs 14–21 of the Sale Motion, paragraphs 17–31 of the Tichenor APA Declaration, paragraphs 20–27 of the Tichenor Declaration, and paragraphs 92–99 of this Memorandum all discuss the benefits of the Sale Transaction in addition to the \$20 million cash consideration. Again, Mr. Tichenor has already testified concerning, and has been subject to cross-examination about, all of those concerns. If the SEC or any other party had additional questions for the Debtors or Binance.US, that they wanted answered before this hearing, they had every opportunity to seek discovery; they did not. Account Holders, the actually affected economic stakeholders, have voted overwhelmingly to proceed with the transaction and the SEC's desire for additional information (which it could obtain through many other means) is no reason to deny confirmation.

158. The issues raised by the SEC and the U.S. Trustee regarding disclosures related to Binance.US's ability to consummate the Sale Transaction, the Debtors' reverse diligence on Binance.US, and the economic benefits of the Sale Transaction should be overruled.

C. The Disclosure Statement Provides Adequate Information Regarding the Transfer of Account Holders and Cryptocurrency to Binance.US.

159. The SEC and the U.S. Trustee allege that the Disclosure Statement contains insufficient disclosure regarding how the Debtors and Binance.US intend to secure customer assets prior to and after consummation of the Sale Transaction.²⁰² To the contrary, the Disclosure Statement describes, in detail, the security protocols that the Debtors have in place to protect Account Holder assets from loss or theft prior to consummation of the Sale Transaction.²⁰³

SEC Objection, ¶ 6; U.S. Trustee Objection, section B.2.

²⁰³ See Disclosure Statement, Article V.B.

Additionally, the Disclosure Statement provides that the Debtors understand that the security protocols that Binance.US has in place to ensure the safe storage of customer assets post-closing adhere to the highest industry standards and have been certified as such by various third-party industry experts.²⁰⁴ Further, Articles IV.J, V.B, and IX.D.1 of the Disclosure Statement adequately describe the regulatory risks affecting Binance.US, Account Holders, and Account Holders' ability to trade cryptocurrency and identify several issues of law that may reduce recoveries.

Statement surrounding Binance.US's Terms of Use.²⁰⁵ Yet again, this is incorrect. In three separate places in the Disclosure Statement, the Debtors include a direct link to the Binance.US Terms of Use when describing customers' ability to withdraw their cryptocurrency at any time.²⁰⁶ Importantly, the Sale Transaction does not contemplate the involuntary and nonconsensual transfer of Account Holders to Binance.US. As clearly stated in the Disclosure Statement and the Customer Onboarding Protocol, it will be each Account Holder's individual decision; Account Holders have ample, clear information laid out step-by-step for the onboarding process to Binance.US if the Account Holders so choose to do so.²⁰⁷ Cryptocurrency will be transferred from the Debtors to Binance.US only as and when relevant creditors become eligible users (*i.e.*, satisfy Binance.US's know-your-customer requirements and accept the Binance.US terms and conditions identified above) on the Binance.US Platform in accordance with the Asset Purchase Agreement

²⁰⁴ See id.

Texas Objection, ¶¶ 13–25.

²⁰⁶ See Disclosure Statement, Art. II.A, V.B.1(a), V.B.1(b) (https://www.binance.us/terms-of-use).

Disclosure Statement, Art. V.B; *Third Amended Plan Supplement* [Docket No. 1035], Exhibit C.

and Plan, and upon such transfer, Binance.US will be obligated to make such Cryptocurrency available to the relevant creditors within five business days of receipt.²⁰⁸

161. The SEC's and the U.S. Trustee's assertions that the Disclosure Statement contains inadequate disclosure regarding how the Debtors and Binance.US intend to secure customer assets prior to and after consummation of the Sale Transaction are incorrect and should be overruled.

D. The Disclosure Statement Contains Adequate Information Regarding the Financial Consequences of the Plan.

Statement regarding the financial consequences of the Plan because creditor recoveries may be substantially less due to the claims surrounding Alameda.²⁰⁹ Ironically, while objecting to inadequate information, Texas repeatedly relies on the Disclosure Statement's detailed disclosures around recovery risks, including the numerous disclaimers, estimates, and other information surrounding recoveries and risks that may result in lower recoveries.²¹⁰ In any event, Holders of Claims have been armed with significant information surrounding recoveries and the risks related thereto, including an explicit statement of the sort the Texas Objection requests: "Specifically, recoveries for both Account Holder Claims and OpCo General Unsecured Claims would be reduced to approximately 24% from approximately 51% under the Sale Transaction if the Alameda Loan Facility Claim is not subordinated and Alameda prevails in its alleged preference claims."²¹¹ The cover letter attached to the Solicitation Package included a similar disclosure that "recoveries

²⁰⁸ See Disclosure Statement, Art. V.B.1(b).

²⁰⁹ See Texas Objection, ¶¶ 11-12.

²¹⁰ *Id*.

²¹¹ Disclosure Statement, Art.IV.B.

included in this Disclosure Statement are for illustrative purposes only and subject to material change particularly due to . . . the ultimate treatment of the Alameda Loan Facility Claims."²¹²

- 163. Texas's argument that recoveries may be greater in a chapter 7 liquidation is also misleading and incorrect. Texas asserts that "if Alameda is successful in its administrative expense claim—the unsecured creditors' recovery would be less than what they would receive in a Chapter 7 liquidation." Texas apparently fails to recognize that if AlamedaFTX is successful it will reduce creditor recoveries in equal measure regardless of whether the Sale Transaction, Liquidation Transaction, or chapter 7 liquidation is pursued. The business justifications for the Sale Transaction and the economic reality that the Sale Transaction maximizes recoveries to Account Holders hold true, and the Sale Transaction and the Liquidation Transaction will both pass the best interests test irrespective of the outcome of the AlamedaFTX administrative claims dispute.
- 164. The Debtors' disclosures are beyond adequate and provide Holders of Claims with the information necessary to vote on the Plan. Accordingly, the Texas Objection should be overruled.

E. The Plan Does Not Violate Applicable Law.

165. The SEC Objection alleges that the transactions necessary to effectuate the rebalancing "may violate" the prohibition in Section 5 of the Securities Act against the unregistered offer, sale, or delivery after sale of securities.²¹⁴ New Jersey similarly alleges that the

Solicitation Package Cover Letter, n. 4.

²¹³ Texas Objection, ¶ 8.

SEC Objection ¶¶ 3–5 (emphasis added).

rebalancing contemplated by the Plan "may violate" New Jersey securities law.²¹⁵ Notwithstanding either of these allegations, the rebalancing contemplated by the Plan was already approved when the Court entered the APA Order.²¹⁶ The Debtors' described the anticipated rebalancing in detail at the DS/APA Hearing and the SEC did not object;²¹⁷ its decision to do so after the fact is puzzling, untimely, and effectively moot. In addition, both the SEC and New Jersey have yet to issue their own rulings as to whether cryptocurrency constitutes a security (and, if so, which one) such that the rebalancing contemplated by the Plan would even potentially be prohibited by Section 5 of the Securities Act or New Jersey securities law; saying that something "may" cause an issue in the future when the SEC and New Jersey have had many years to address the topic and have apparently not made up their own minds is no reason to deny confirmation.

166. Holding hostage a Plan that is supported by over 97 percent of Account Holders and 98 percent in amount of Account Holder Claims actually voting and that has been overwhelmingly approved by all Voting Classes on the mere speculation that a future ruling at an undetermined date *may* present regulatory concerns would be highly inequitable and needlessly delay distributions to Account Holders. Accordingly, the SEC Objection and the New Jersey Objection must be overruled.

F. The Release and Exculpation Provisions of the Plan Are Reasonable and Appropriate.

167. Objections related to the Debtor Releases, Third-Party Releases, and related Exculpation provisions in the Plan are raised in the FTC Objection, the AHG Objection, the

New Jersey Objection ¶ 4 (emphasis added).

²¹⁶ Docket No. 860.

²¹⁷ In re Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc., No. 2210943 (MEW) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Jan. 10, 2023) Hr'g Tr. 23:21–24:8; 53:2–53:19; 74:25–76:10.

Newsom and Warren Objection, the Hendershott et al. Objection, the U.S. Trustee Objection, the Texas Objection, and the New Jersey Objection (collectively, the "Releases Objections").²¹⁸ All of the Releases Objections should be overruled.

do, what claims could be asserted by the estate if not released, and what the proposed Releases do, what claims could be asserted by the estate if not released, and what challenges such claims would face and costs such claims would require the estate to incur if they were ever pursued. As a threshold matter, to be clear, the Plan does not propose to release any third party's direct claims against non-debtors (to the extent such direct claims exist) without such third party's express consent, which would be reflected by "opting in" to the Third-Party Releases. Holders of Claims and Interests can also affirmatively elect to "contribute" their direct claims against third parties unaffiliated with the Debtors (to the extent they have any) to the Wind-Down Debtor and vest in the Wind-Down Debtor with authority to pursue such claims. This case is therefore fundamentally different from cases like *In re Aegean Marine Petroleum Network, Inc.*, where a plan proposed so-called "non-consensual third-party releases." Any creditor, including all of the parties who filed Releases Objections, is free to not opt in to the Third-Party Releases and to pursue their retained direct causes of action if they so choose. Accordingly, any assertion in the Releases Objections that the Third-Party Releases are non-consensual must be overruled.

169. The Releases Objections must also be overruled to the extent they challenge the release of causes of action that *the Debtors* may (or may not) hold against officers, directors, and employees. These claims belong to the Debtors *only*, and could never have been brought by

See FTC Objection; AHG Objection, ¶¶ 1, 3, 67–68; Newsom and Warren Objection, ¶¶ 1, 4; Hendershott et al. Objection, ¶¶ 15–16; U.S. Trustee Objection, section C; Texas Objection ¶¶ 35–37; New Jersey Objection, ¶ 6.

²¹⁹ 599 B.R. 717, 729 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2019).

individual creditors, regulators, or anyone else other than the Debtors themselves.²²⁰ The Court's review of the Debtors' decision to pursue, settle, or release any such claims "is subject to the Debtors' own business judgment."221 To evaluate the claims that could potentially be pursued by the Debtors and the estate against officers, directors, or employees, the Debtors appointed two independent directors with extensive restructuring experience and no prior affiliation with Voyager or its management team to a Special Committee of Voyager Digital, LLC. The Debtors then delegated to that Special Committee exclusive authority to "among other things, (a) investigate any historical transactions relating to Voyager LLC, and (b) investigate any estate claims and causes of action against insiders of Voyager LLC, including claims arising from its loan to Three Arrows Capital, and (c) perform any other activities consistent with the foregoing that the Special Committee or Voyager LLC's board otherwise deems necessary or appropriate." The Special Committee was also vested with sole authority to prosecute, settle, or extinguish any and all claims and causes of action against officers, directors, and employees. The Special Committee retained a preeminent law firm, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, which was also completely independent from the Debtors, to provide independent advice to, and act at the exclusive direction of, the Special Committee in connection with the Special Committee's mandate.

170. The Special Committee Investigation was extensive, as the Disclosure Statement describes in detail.²²² Among other things, the Special Committee performed extensive research,

See, e.g., In re Gen. Growth Props., 426 B.R. 71, 76 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2010) ("it is well settled that alleged 'acts of breach of fiduciary duty, corporate waste and mismanagement become property of the estate immediately upon the commencement of a bankruptcy case pursuant to § 541 of the Bankruptcy Code."); In re Keene Corp., 164 B.R. 844, 853 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1994) ("Claims based upon breach of a fiduciary duty belong to a corporation.").

In re Ditech Holding Corp., 606 B.R. 544, 623 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2019); In re Stone Barn Manhattan LLC, 405 B.R. 68, 75 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2009) ("Although approval of a settlement rests in the Court's sound discretion . . . the debtor's business judgment should not be ignored.").

²²² See Disclosure Statement Art. VIII.O.

requested and reviewed thousands of documents consisting of tens of thousands of pages, and interviewed 12 witnesses for a total of approximately 55 hours. Then, after conducting that detailed investigation, the Special Committee found no theft or fraud–none–by any director or officer of the Debtors, because there was none. Nor did the Special Committee find evidence that Voyager's insiders engaged in self-dealing. To the contrary, Voyager's officers and directors lost substantial sums of money alongside Voyager's stakeholders. Ultimately, the Special Committee concluded that the estate does not have colorable claims against any Voyager director or officer other than potential claims against its CEO and former CFO²²³ related to the 3AC Loan. However, while colorable, the standard for successfully prosecuting these claims would be difficult to meet, the litigation of such claims would be extremely expensive and would dissipate funds that would otherwise go to creditors, and any judgment would be difficult to collect, meaning that such claims (if pursued) might well end up with a material net-negative value to the estate.

171. The Special Committee's determination to negotiate and ultimately recommend the settlements is based on the following factors, among others: the relative strength or weakness of these potential claims, which (if pursued) would sound in breach of fiduciary duty premised on alleged gross negligence on the part of the officers; the challenges involved in litigating each element of those claims; the costs of litigating; the financial wherewithal (or lack thereof) of the officers; and the risk of depletion of substantial portions of available insurance that prioritizes the rights of the officers to utilize the insurance for defense costs.²²⁴ The Special Committee therefore negotiated and approved (subject to Court approval) settlements that will result in the CEO's and former CFO's personal contributions to the estate while preserving claims against insurance.

²²³ Mr. Psaropoulos was CFO of Voyager Digital, LLC when it made all loans to 3AC.

²²⁴ Pohl Decl. ¶ 24.

172. Based on the cost-benefit analysis, the Special Committee determined that the settlements embodied in the Plan and disclosed in detail in the Disclosure Statement are in the best interests of the estate.²²⁵ They are. Finally, the Debtors' Exculpation provisions in the Plan fully comply with this Court's ruling in *Aegean*.²²⁶

173. The U.S. Trustee Objection goes on to argue that not only is the Exculpation provision overly broad, but it is inappropriate for the Plan to provide that certain parties are both exculpated and released.²²⁷ This is incorrect. As discussed above, the Exculpation provision is consistent with this Court's ruling in *Aegean*, and the suggestion that it is improper for exculpated parties to also be released under the Plan is patently false. As the U.S. Trustee Objection outlines, exculpation provisions only cover the period from the commencement of a chapter 11 case through its effectiveness, whereas granted releases cover the entire period prior to effectiveness of a chapter 11 plan. There is no support in the Bankruptcy Code to block an exculpated party from also being released for entirely separate conduct.²²⁸ The U.S. Trustee Objection, therefore, should be overruled.²²⁹

²²⁵ See Disclosure Statement Art. VII.2(b)(ii).

In re Aegean Marine Petroleum Network Inc., 599 B.R. 717, 721 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2019) (determining that an appropriate exculpation provision should bar claims against the exculpated parties based on the negotiation, execution, and implementation of agreements and transactions that were approved by the Court).

²²⁷ U.S. Trustee Objection, sections C–E.

See, e.g., In re Frontier Communications Corporation, Case No. 20-22476 (RDD) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Aug. 21, 2020) (confirmed chapter 11 plan including both exculpation and release of debtors' professionals and employees); In re Lakeland Tours, LLC, Case No. 20-11647 (JLG) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Aug. 21, 2020) (same); In re Jason Industries, Inc., Case No. 20-22766 (RDD) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Aug. 17, 2020) (same); In re Windstream Holdings, Inc., Case No. 19-22312 (RDD) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. June 22, 2020) (same); In re Barneys New York, Inc., Case No. 19-36300 (CGM) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Nov. 15, 2019) (same).

The remainder of the U.S. Trustee Objection has been resolved and is addressed in the Objection Chart attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

174. Section VIII.C of the Plan provides that each of the Exculpated Parties will be released and exculpated from any Cause of Action arising out of acts or omissions in connection with these chapter 11 cases and certain related transactions, except for acts or omissions that are found to have been the product of actual fraud, willful misconduct, or gross negligence.²³⁰ The exculpation provision is an integral part of the Plan and otherwise satisfies the governing standards in the Second Circuit. This provision provides necessary and customary protections to those parties in interest (whether estate fiduciaries or otherwise) whose efforts were and continue to be vital to formulating and implementing the Plan, which has garnered overwhelming support from the Debtors' creditors entitled to vote on the Plan. For the reasons set forth below, the Debtors respectfully submit that the Court should overrule the U.S. Trustee Objection to the Exculpation provision, as it is appropriately tailored to the facts and circumstances of these chapter 11 cases.

175. At the outset, it is important to underscore the difference between the Third-Party Releases and the exculpation provision. Unlike a third-party release, the exculpation provision does not affect the liability of the Exculpated Parties *per se*, but rather sets a standard of actual fraud, willful misconduct, or gross negligence for any hypothetical future litigation against any Exculpated Party for acts arising out of the Debtors' restructuring.²³¹ An exculpation provision represents a legal conclusion that flows inevitably from several different findings a bankruptcy court must reach in confirming a plan.²³² For example, a bankruptcy court cannot confirm a

²³⁰ See Plan Art. VIII.C.

See, e.g., Aegean, 599 B.R. at 721 ("If this Court has approved a transaction as being in the best interests of the estate and has authorized the transaction to proceed, then the parties to those transactions should not be subject to claims that effectively seek to undermine or second-guess this Court's determinations. In the absence of gross negligence or intentional wrongdoing, parties should not be liable for doing things that the Court authorized them to do and that the Court decided were reasonable things to do.").

²³² See 11 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(L).

chapter 11 plan unless it finds that the plan has been proposed in good faith.²³³ Once the court makes this good-faith finding, it is appropriate to provide a standard of care for the parties involved in the negotiation and formulation of that chapter 11 plan.²³⁴ Exculpation provisions, therefore, prevent future collateral attacks against the Court's good faith finding. Ultimately, the Exculpation provision provides protection to those parties that worked hand-in-hand with the Debtors and were instrumental in ensuring the success of the Debtors' restructuring. Accordingly, the U.S. Trustee Objection to the Exculpation and Releases should be overruled.

176. The FTC raises additional issues with the Releases insofar as they release (i) liabilities of a debtor (x) all or substantially all of whose property is being liquidated under a chapter 11 plan, (y) that will not engage in business following consummation of the plan, and (z) that would be denied a discharge under section 727(a) of the Bankruptcy Code if the case were a case under chapter 7; and/or (ii) fraud-related debts held by a governmental unit. However, following good-faith, arm's-length negotiations with the FTC, the Debtors have agreed to add language to the Confirmation Order²³⁵ to resolve the FTC Objection in its entirety. The Debtors believe that the same language added to satisfy the FTC Objection satisfies assertions in the New Jersey Objection²³⁶ and the Texas Objection²³⁷ that the Plan contemplates a discharge in violation of section 1141(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code.

²³³ See 11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(3).

See Aegean, 599 B.R. at 721 ("[A]n appropriate exculpation provision should say that it bars claims against the exculpated parties based on the negotiation, execution, and implementation of agreements and transactions that were approved by the Court.").

²³⁵ See Confirmation Order ¶ 141.

New Jersey Objection, ¶ 6.

Texas Objection, ¶ 36.

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 106 of 135

177. For the foregoing reasons, the Releases Objections should be overruled to the extent they are not already resolved.

G. The AHG Objection is Satisfied Pursuant to Language Added to the Confirmation Order.

178. The AHG Objection asserts that (a) the Plan and Confirmation Order should contain language clarifying that neither document will have any impact on the validity, extent, priority, or treatment of Intercompany Claims; (b) the Confirmation Order should contain language clarifying that the Releases in the Plan will not prejudice the rights of any party that did not "opt in" to the applicable releases; (c)(i) the Plan violates section 1123(a)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code by failing to specify whether Holders of Class 7 Intercompany Claims are Impaired or Unimpaired and inappropriately describes such Holders as deemed to accept the Plan if the Intercompany Claims are not being Reinstated, (ii) to the extent such Intercompany Claims are Impaired, the Plan fails to specify treatment for an Impaired Class under Bankruptcy Code section 1123(a)(3), and (iii) in the event that Intercompany Claims are to be cancelled or otherwise extinguished, the Plan seeks to deprive Class 9 Existing Equity Interest Holders of distributions to which they are entitled; (d) the Plan is not fair and equitable with respect to Class 9 Existing Equity Interests; (e) the cancellation of the Existing Equity Interests under the Plan is impermissible; and (f) the Plan improperly provides that only the Wind-Down Debtor can object to proofs of claim.²³⁸

179. The AHG has agreed that the AHG Objection is resolved in its entirety by the addition of certain language to the Confirmation Order (i) clarifying that Intercompany Obligations will be treated as determined by the Court, (ii) providing that parties that do not affirmatively opt in to the Third-Party Releases will not be deemed to grant Third-Party Releases

²³⁸ See generally AHG Objection.

under the Plan, (iii) preserving the rights of Existing Equity Interests as if the shares had not been cancelled, and (iv) clarifying that parties other than the Wind-Down Debtor may object to proofs of claim.²³⁹

H. The Debtors' Treatment of Account Holders Claims Is Appropriate and Consistent with Bankruptcy Code.

Objections") allege that the Plan unfairly discriminates against Account Holders in New York and Texas, two of the Unsupported Jurisdictions, by delaying their recoveries relative to creditors in the same class and by not allowing them the option to recover cryptocurrency instead of liquidated assets. Contrary to those assertions, the Plan does not unfairly discriminate against Account Holders in Unsupported Jurisdictions, including New York and Texas, and the Unfair Discrimination Objections should be overruled.

York, Texas, or any other Unsupported Jurisdiction is of such Unsupported Jurisdiction's own making. New York, Texas, and the other Unsupported Jurisdictions could have, as the other 46 states did prepetition, provided potential avenues for their constituents to receive distributions in kind. Or they could have engaged constructively on a solution post-petition. They refused. In particular, New York and Texas have now chosen to object to the fact that Account Holders in their jurisdictions would receive cash when it would be their state's own regulatory decisions (unless they decide to provide fairly straightforward, basic accommodations to their own citizens) creating this result.

²³⁹ See Confirmation Order ¶ 114, 123, 126.

New York Objection, ¶¶ 25–29; Texas Objection ¶¶ 26–34.

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 108 of 135

182. The New York Objection is particularly puzzling. New York suggests that they just learned of New York citizens who were customers on the Voyager platform.²⁴¹ That suggestion lacks any semblance of candor. Voyager voluntarily reached out to the New York Department of Financial Services in November 2021 and described in detail the nature of the New York customers on Voyager's platform. Voyager followed up with a letter documenting its discussions with New York on December 3, 2021.²⁴² Voyager followed up again by asking the New York regulators if they wanted Voyager to remove the New York customers from the platform, and the New York regulators themselves took the position that doing so was not necessary; the parties discussions on the subject continued to and through the Debtors' chapter 11 filing. For New York to now try to insert additional obstacles to the Plan, and to prevent Voyager from returning cryptocurrency to customers as quickly and efficiently as possible, adds insult to injury and only hurts New York's own citizens.

183. The Debtors have made extensive efforts to help the Unsupported Jurisdictions find ways to accommodate in-kind distributions to their constituents. From the outset of these chapter 11 cases, the Debtors engaged in continued open dialogue with all states, including the potential transaction outcomes at play, but have so far been unsuccessful coming to agreements with New York and Texas. Indeed, at the DS/APA Hearing, what representatives of New York and Texas asked for was for Binance to establish so-called "withdrawal-only" accounts so that their state's citizens could receive cryptocurrency on the same general timeline as those in other

New York Objection, ¶ 5 ("Despite the fact that none of the Debtors are licensed in New York, the Department is aware of allegations and other information indicating that one or more of the Debtors *may have* operated and *may be* continuing to operate in New York in violation of Applicable Law.") (emphasis added).

See December 3, 2021, Letter from Lowenstein Sandler LLP on behalf of Voyager to the New York Department of Financial Services, attached as <u>Exhibit B</u>.

states.²⁴³ The Debtors understand that Binance (at the Debtors' urging) actively engaged and offered precisely that option in an effort to resolve the Unsupported Jurisdiction's concern. Yet New York and Texas remain obstinate. The only conclusion to be drawn is that New York and Texas have other considerations in mind. The Debtors are left with no choice but to proceed with the terms contemplated by the Asset Purchase Agreement.

184. Setting aside the facts, the law is also against the Unsupported Jurisdictions. Treatment of Account Holders in Unsupported Jurisdictions is not unfairly discriminatory. Courts commonly recognize that the requirement for equal treatment within a class requires "equality of treatment, not equality of result" because the inquiry is "not whether all of the claimants in a class obtain the same thing, but whether they have the same opportunity."²⁴⁴ Courts have also recognized that "[t]he requirements of section 1123(a)(4) apply only to a plan's treatment *on account of particular claims* or interests in a specific class—not the treatment that members of the class may separately receive under a plan on account of the class members' other rights or contributions."²⁴⁵ Further, courts have held that the requirement under Section 1123(a)(4) that all claims in a given class be treated equally is satisfied when the members of the class are subject "to the same process for claim payment."²⁴⁶ The applicable standards are satisfied here because the

²⁴³ In re Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc., No. 2210943 (MEW) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Jan. 10, 2023) Hr'g Tr. 55:19–56:10; 57:18–59:13.

Latam Airlines, 2022 WL 2206829, at *35 (citing In re Dana Corp, 412 B.R. 53, 62 (S.D.N.Y. 2008)); In re Breitburn Energy Partners LP, 582 B.R. 321, 358 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. March 12, 2018).

²⁴⁵ Latam Airlines, 2002 WL 2206829, at * 35 (citing In re Adelphia Commc'ns Corp., 368 B.R. 140, 250-52 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2007)).

In re Cent. Med. Ctr., Inc., 122 B.R. 568, 575 (Bankr. E.D. Mo. 1990); accord In re Breitburn Energy Partners LP, 582 B.R. at 358; In re Mesa Air Grp., Inc., No. 10-10018 MG, 2011 WL 320466 at * 8 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Jan. 20, 2011) ("The inquiry under [S]ection 1123(a)(4) is not whether U.S. Citizens and Non–U.S. Citizens receive the same amount of money, but whether U.S. Citizens and Non–U.S. Citizens are given the same opportunity."); In re New Power Co., 438 F.3d 1113, 1122 (11th Cir. 2006) ("delayed receipt of distributions to members of a class whose claims remain disputed does not, in and of itself, violate § 1123(a)(4).").

Debtors valued all claims held by Account Holders as of the Petition Date, and, contrary to the assertions of New York and Texas,²⁴⁷ all Account Holder claims receive the same treatment under the Plan. The process for claim payment applies uniformly, subject to each Account Holder's becoming an eligible user on the Binance.US platform in accordance with the Plan and Asset Purchase Agreement and subject to regulatory compliance. That Account Holders may receive distributions that result in different net outcomes due, for instance, to timing of disbursements or the various tax regimes applicable to different distributions, as New York points out,²⁴⁸ is of no consequence, as the Court has already observed in these chapter 11 cases.²⁴⁹ New York's tax-based objections must be overruled as well.

185. New York's reliance on *In re Mesa Air Grp., Inc.* is also unavailing.²⁵⁰ Indeed, the *Mesa Air* opinion actually bolsters the Debtors' argument that the Plan complies with 1123(a)(4). In *Mesa*, the confirmed chapter 11 plan bifurcated treatment of general unsecured claims depending on whether holders thereof were United States citizens.²⁵¹ United States citizens received distributions of new notes and new common stock while non-United States citizens received new notes and new transferable penny warrants that could only be exercised by United States citizens.²⁵² The bifurcation was necessary to avoid a distribution scheme that would have resulted in non-United State citizens owning more than 25 percent of a United States air carrier in

New York Objection ¶¶ 27–29; Texas Objection ¶¶ 26–34.

New York Objection, ¶¶ 24, 28.

In re Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc., No. 2210943 (MEW) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Jan. 10, 2023) Hr'g Tr. 116:4–116:14 ("[T]he basic fact is that customers in different states face different tax consequences based on distributions that they receive. And those are never understood as amounting to discriminations by the Debtor.").

²⁵⁰ 2011 Bankr. LEXIS 3855 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Jan. 20, 2011). New York Objection, ¶ 29.

²⁵¹ *Id.* at *4–5.

²⁵² *Id*.

violation of applicable law, specifically title 49 of the United States Code.²⁵³ To compensate non-United States citizens for the differences in trading value in the warrants and the stock, the plan provided a 10 precent premium to non-United States Citizens.²⁵⁴ Curiously, New York relies on *Mesa* to argue that its constituents must have the same consideration mix—cryptocurrency instead of cash—as Account Holders in Supported Jurisdictions who elect to open an account on the Binance.US platform.²⁵⁵ But that is precisely what did not happen in *Mesa*, where some general unsecured claimants received warrants and others received stock, and the court found that the plan complied with the Bankruptcy Code: "The inquiry under section 1123(a)(4) is not whether U.S. Citizens and Non-U.S. Citizens receive 'the same amount of money,' but whether U.S. Citizens and Non-U.S. Citizens are given the 'same opportunity.'"²⁵⁶ In the present case, just as in *Mesa*, Account Holders clearly have the same "opportunity" regardless of whether unavoidable applicable law may cause some claimants to receive a different consideration mix than others.

186. The New York Objection also alleges that the Debtors offer "no argument" for the delay in distributions to Account Holders in Unsupported Jurisdictions.²⁵⁷ As a preliminary matter, the Debtors are clear in both the Asset Purchase Agreement and the Disclosure Statement that six months is the maximum amount of time that the Debtors will delay distributions to Account Holders in Unsupported Jurisdictions, and the timing between distributions to such Account Holders could be much shorter. In fact, there may be no delay if Binance.US receives the necessary

²⁵³ *Id.* at *5.

²⁵⁴ *Id.* at *8.

New York Objection, ¶ 29.

²⁵⁶ *Id.* at *21–22 (citations omitted).

New York Objection 25.

regulatory approvals prior to closing of the Sale Transaction. Further, the maximum delay in cash distributions for Account Holders in Unsupported Jurisdictions under the Asset Purchase Agreement is actually three months (not six months) relative to Account Holders in jurisdictions where Binance.US is licensed or authorized, who will receive cash distributions in lieu of in-kind distributions if they do not become eligible users on the Binance.US platform within three months of closing of the Sale Transaction pursuant to the Plan and Asset Purchase Agreement. As described above, the Debtors and Binance.US have also been working diligently with Unsupported Jurisdictions in the weeks leading up to the Combined Hearing in order to obtain the necessary approvals to make in-kind distributions to Account Holders in the Unsupported Jurisdictions, but the Unsupported Jurisdictions (and not the Debtors) ultimately control that decision.

187. At the APA/DS Hearing, the Court considered a challenge to the Disclosure Statement on the grounds that distributing cash as opposed to cryptocurrency to Account Holders in Unsupported Jurisdictions constituted unfair discrimination and commented that "there are times in bankruptcy when customers have different treatments in different states or have different net outcomes in different states just because of state regulations[.]"²⁵⁸ The Court then raised the solid precedential basis for distribution schemes like the one contemplated by the Plan:

... in the American Airlines case, for example, [] Creditors received equity shares in the combined American Airlines/U.S. Air entity. And under the plan, some people received their equity right away. Some people didn't receive it until disputes over their claims were resolved. People received the same amount of equity, but it being equity, the value fluctuated significantly over time so that the actual value at the time somebody got it might have been higher, might have been lower than what it was at an earlier period of time. But nobody thought that meant there was an impermissible discrimination among Creditors because they all got the same

²⁵⁸ In re Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc., No. 2210943 (MEW) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Jan. 10, 2023) Hr'g Tr. 116:4–7.

amount of equity, and there was simply no way to determine how much somebody would get until disputes over the claims were resolved.²⁵⁹

Indeed, in *In re AMR Corp.*, the court approved a plan of reorganization that provided that some classes of general unsecured creditors and equity interest holders were to receive new common stock at varying times after the effective date of the plan as part of their recovery and held that disputed claims settled after the effective date were due to receive stock distributions as part of a true-up.²⁶⁰ The same dynamic is present here: the Debtors can do nothing to control either the volatility in cryptocurrency prices nor the structural barriers to effectuating distributions to all Account Holders at the same time. The former is inherent to cryptocurrency, which trades all across the world 24 hours per day; the latter is an unavoidable consequence of the different regulatory regimes that exist across the United States. The Plan therefore does not unfairly discriminate against Account Holders in Unsupported Jurisdictions.

188. In addition, contrary to the assertions of New York and Texas,²⁶¹ there are clear business reasons that the Debtors cannot make distributions in-kind to Account Holders in Unsupported Jurisdictions. *First*, due to legal, operational, and technical limitations, the Debtors do not have the ability to distribute cryptocurrency themselves to Account Holders in Unsupported Jurisdictions. The Voyager platform that would be required to facilitate in-kind distributions to creditors is being sold to Binance.US in connection with the Sale Transaction, meaning that any in-kind distributions to creditors in Unsupported Jurisdictions would need to be done manually on a transaction-by-transaction basis for over 120,000 creditors. Voyager lacks the necessary

²⁵⁹ *Id.* at 116:22–117:11.

²⁶⁰ 562 B.R. 20, 24-28 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2016).

New York Objection ¶¶ 25–26; Texas Objection ¶¶ 26–34.

infrastructure and personnel to accomplish such a large and complex transfer after the contemplated sale in a safe and secure manner.

to individual creditor wallets as opposed to effectuating such distributions through the Binance.US platform. The Debtors must comply with anti-money laundering ("AML") and know your customer ("KYC") laws when sending cryptocurrency to individual wallets. Historically, the Debtors used Chainanalysis for automated verification of certain user-generated cryptocurrency transfer requests. However, Chainanalysis does not support all of the tokens listed on the Voyager platform (e.g., non-transferable tokens). While AML/KYC compliance is easy when transferring cryptocurrency to Binance.US wallets, it poses substantial risk to the Debtors as it relates to the manual transfer of cryptocurrency to individual wallets for over 120,000 creditors. Binance.US has represented to the Debtors that it has existing infrastructure in place that would allow it to perform AML/KYC compliance checks in connection with transferring all cryptocurrency to customer accounts on its platform.²⁶²

190. *Third*, there are technical limitations that would prevent the Debtors from making in-kind distributions of certain types of cryptocurrency on the Debtors' platform. There are 35 cryptocurrency tokens (approximately 20% of the Debtors' cryptocurrency portfolio based on equivalent USD value) on the Debtors' platform that cannot be transferred directly to individual wallets due to technical limitations associated with the Debtors' platform while they can be withdrawn from certain third-party exchanges (like Binance.US). Historically, users of the Debtors' platform have exited from their positions in such tokens by selling such tokens for cash,

Unlike ACH transfers, which can be reversed, cryptocurrency sent to the wrong wallet cannot, which is why parties will often send a small "test" transaction to a wallet address prior to initiating a large transfer.

transactions that previously required close interaction with market makers to effectuate. The only way for the Debtors to distribute the value associated with these non-transferable tokens to creditors in Unsupported Jurisdictions is to liquidate the tokens and distribute the resulting cash.

191. For the foregoing reasons, the Unfair Discrimination Objections should be overruled.

I. The Customer Objections Raise Issues That are Not Barriers to Confirmation.

192. The Newsom and Warren Objection, the Hendershott et al. Objection, and the Shehadeh Papers (collectively, the "<u>Customer Objections</u>") reflect a fundamental misunderstanding of both chapter 11 bankruptcy and the law in general, restate issues that have been addressed herein or otherwise, and are not barriers to confirmation of the Plan. They should be overruled.

1. The Newsom and Warren Objection and the Hendershott et al. Objection.

193. The Newsom and Warren Objection and Hendershott et al. Objection oppose the releases included in the Plan on the basis that they are "non-consensual" releases. As addressed in Article IV.I of this Memorandum above, the Plan does not include any non-consensual releases and only includes third-party "opt in" releases that are strictly voluntary. Further, these creditors apparently misunderstand what the Releases do: The Debtor releases do not have any bearing on direct creditor claims (if any exist), and the third-party releases contemplated under the Plan are only those voluntarily and affirmatively opted into, as is made clear throughout the Debtors' materials, including their Solicitation Packages.

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 116 of 135

194. The Newsom and Warren Objection and Hendershott et al. Objection raise similar

assertions to those included in the Motion for Appointment of a Chapter 11 Trustee²⁶³ while also

relying on the same conclusory arguments and alleged facts (or lack thereof) as included therein,

except for including the anonymous and obviously inadmissible survey results of 800 unidentified

people who may or may not be Account Holders and whose survey results run directly contrary to

the more than 97 percent of Account Holders and 98 percent in amount of Account Holder Claims

actually voting who voted to accept the Plan. The Debtors have thoroughly defended their position

in the Debtors' Omnibus Objection to Certain Motions Set for Hearing on March 2, 2023,²⁶⁴ and

incorporate those same arguments by reference here.

195. It bears repeating again: Appointment of a trustee or conversion to a chapter 7

liquidation will not benefit the Debtors, their creditors, or any other stakeholder in these chapter 11

cases. Instead, the appointment of a chapter 11 trustee or conversion to a chapter 7 would leave a

trustee to start these cases over again without the benefit of the Sale Transaction contemplated in

the Plan and, in the event the Sale Transaction cannot be consummated, the Liquidation

Transaction. Moreover, the "toggle" portion of the Plan already contemplates returning assets to

creditors in a manner that will be more efficient than a chapter 7 liquidation in the event it becomes

necessary for the Debtors to "toggle" to the Liquidation Transaction. Starting from square one

with the appointment of a trustee would lead to massive value destruction.

196. The Newsom and Warren Objection also asserts that Holders of VGX Tokens are

being unfairly discriminated against in violation of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code. That

assertion is incorrect. Any Claim on account of VGX Token is classified as an Account Holder

²⁶³ Docket No. 941.

²⁶⁴ Docket No. 1076.

102

Claim, and all Account Holder Claims and recoveries will be treated in an identical manner, and, as such, Holders of Account Holder Claims will receive their *pro rata* share of the value of the cryptocurrency on Voyager's platform, regardless of whether an Account Holder had BTC, ETH, USDC, VGX, or any other cryptocurrency in their account.²⁶⁵ As explained in the Disclosure Statement, each Account Holder is afforded the same opportunity to recover its equal share of cryptocurrency and other treatment as contemplated under the Plan.

197. Further, the Newsom and Warren Objection and Hendershott et al. Objection raise certain grievances with the Committee and its advisors. These conclusory allegations do not bear upon confirmation of the Debtors' Plan.

2. The Shehadeh Papers.²⁶⁶

198. Mr. Shehadeh filed the two Shehadeh Letters, the Shehadeh Claims Objection, the Shehadeh Motion, and the Shehadeh Fraud Motion that, *inter alia*, accuse the Debtors of being a Ponzi scheme with no admissible evidence supporting the claim; accuse the Debtors, the professionals, and the Court of misconduct; demand a change in venue and judge in these chapter 11 cases; and challenge the dollarization of Account Holder Claims.²⁶⁷ The Debtors previously addressed Mr. Shehadeh's same arguments in the *Debtors' Omnibus Objection to Certain Motions Set for Hearing on March 2, 2023*,²⁶⁸ and once again incorporate those arguments by reference herein.

²⁶⁵ Plan Art. III.C.3.

The Debtors and their advisors have tried in earnest and in good faith to connect with Mr. Shehadeh and answer any questions he has surrounding the Plan or the chapter 11 cases while patiently listening to his impassioned theories of the case and other alleged villainy all the while Shehadeh secretly records the Debtors' counsel without their knowledge or consent to seemingly impress his other embattled cronies in their Telegram Channel.

²⁶⁷ See Shehadeh Letter, Shehadeh Claims Objection, Shehadeh Motion, Shehadeh Fraud Motion.

²⁶⁸ Docket No. 1074.

199. Shehadeh et al.'s objection to dollarization of Account Holder Claims in the Shehadeh Claims Objection was already addressed by the Court at hearing on February 22, 2023. As the Court explained in response to Mr. Shehadeh's insistence that his claim be denominated in cryptocurrency, "under the Bankruptcy Code, the value of [] claim[s] for purposes of distribution has to be measured in terms of dollars as of the filing date." For the reasons the Court has already outlined, the dollarization arguments in the Shehadeh Claims Objection must be overruled.

200. Notwithstanding his claims to the contrary, Mr. Shehadeh has exercised his rights by vigorously engaging in these chapter 11 cases as both an active participant at hearings and a serial filer of letters, motions, and objections,²⁷⁰ all of which have been taken with the utmost sincerity by both the Debtors and the Court. But none of his assertions has any merit, and his inflammatory accusations are not well taken.

201. Mr. Shehadeh has received more than sufficient due process by continually raising and being heard on baseless allegations repeatedly, despite the reality that all he is doing is further draining estate resources that should be going to creditors.

202. The Shehadeh Fraud Motion is more of the same. Mr. Shehadeh once again levels serious but baseless allegations against the Debtors without a single shred of evidence.²⁷¹ The Shehadeh Fraud Motion also asserts that counsel to the Debtors has not properly disclosed any connections to the Debtors and "may have violated requirements of the [Bankruptcy Code] to file list of creditors, a schedule of assets and liabilities, and a statement of financial affairs."²⁷² This

²⁶⁹ In re Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc., No. 2210943 (MEW) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Feb. 22, 2023) Hr'g Tr. 48:2–48:5.

See Docket Nos. 922, 930, 934, 940, 942, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 953, 967, 1030, 1063, 1064, 1066, 1069, 1070, 1072, and 1082.

²⁷¹ Docket No. 1082.

²⁷² *Id*.

is patently false; the Debtors have made substantial disclosures with respect to counsel's retention, and the creditor list, schedules of assets and liabilities, and statements of financial affairs were filed long ago at substantial expense.²⁷³ It is time for this nonsense to end, and thus time for the Plan to be confirmed.

J. The BNY Objection Should Be Overruled as No Transfer has Occurred.

203. The BNY Objection asserts that Shellpoint holds a perfected mortgage claim on the property commonly known as 37 Black Hawk, Irvine, California 92603 (the "Property") and that title to the Property was transferred from mortgage borrowers Michael G. Beason and Mickey L. Wiebe to Debtor Voyager Digital, LLC on January 5, 2023.²⁷⁴ BNY objects that (i) if such transfer was not authorized by the Court it should be voided and (ii) to the extent such transfer was authorized by the Court Shellpoint has a secured claim against the Debtors in excess of \$5.149 million that is not properly addressed in the Plan.²⁷⁵ The Debtors believe this Objection is resolved pursuant to language added to the Confirmation Order.²⁷⁶

Conclusion

204. For all of the reasons set forth herein and in the Voting Report, the Tichenor Declaration, the Renzi Declaration, and the Pohl Declaration, and as will be further shown at the Combined Hearing, the Debtors respectfully request that the Court approve the Disclosure Statement on a final basis and confirm the Plan as fully satisfying all of the applicable requirements

²⁷³ *Id.*

BNY Objection, \P 1–2.

²⁷⁵ *Id.* at ¶¶ 4–6.

²⁷⁶ See Confirmation Order ¶ 152.

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 120 of 135

of the Bankruptcy Code by entering the Proposed Confirmation Order, overruling any remaining Objections, and granting such other and further relief as is just and proper.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank]

Dated: February 28, 2023 New York, New York /s/ Joshua A. Sussberg

KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP KIRKLAND & ELLIS INTERNATIONAL LLP

Joshua A. Sussberg, P.C. Christopher Marcus, P.C. Christine A. Okike, P.C.

Allyson B. Smith (admitted *pro hac vice*)

601 Lexington Avenue

New York, New York 10022 Telephone: (212) 446-4800 Facsimile: (212) 446-4900

Email: jsussberg@kirkland.com

cmarcus@kirkland.com

christine.okike@kirkland.com allyson.smith@kirkland.com

Counsel to the Debtors and Debtors in Possession

Exhibit A

Objection Response Chart

IN RE VOYAGER DIGITAL HOLDINGS, INC., ET AL., CASE NO. 22-10943 (MEW)

CHART OF OBJECTIONS AND PROPOSED RESPONSES TO THE THIRD AMENDED JOINT PLAN OF VOYAGER DIGITAL HOLDINGS, INC. AND ITS DEBTOR AFFILIATES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 11 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE (THE "PLAN")¹

DOCKET#	OBJECTING PARTY	OBJECTION SUMMARY	PROPOSED ACTION/RESPONSE
1042	Federal Trade Commission (" <u>FTC</u> ," and such Objection the " <u>FTC Objection</u> ") ²	• The FTC objects to the Releases proposed in the Plan insofar as they enjoin (i) liabilities of a debtor (x) all or substantially all of whose property is being liquidated under a chapter 11 plan, (y) that will not engage in business following consummation of the plan, and (z) that would be denied a discharge under section 727(a) of the Bankruptcy Code if the case were a case under chapter 7; and/or (ii) fraud-related debts held by a governmental unit.	• The Debtors believe this Objection is resolved pursuant to language added to the Confirmation Order. See Confirmation Order ¶ 141.
1047	U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC," and such Objection the "SEC Objection")	The Disclosure Statement and Plan fail to provide necessary information regarding the security of assets on the Binance.US platform.	See Memorandum, section IV.D.
		• The transactions necessary to effectuate the rebalancing may violate the prohibition in Section 5 of the Securities Act of 1933 against the unregistered offer, sale, or delivery after sale of securities.	See Memorandum, section IV.E.
		The Plan, Disclosure Statement, and APA do not adequately describe the impact of potential regulatory actions on Binance.US, on Account Holders, and on Account Holders' ability to trade crypto assets.	See Memorandum, section IV.D.

Capitalized terms used but not defined herein have the meanings given to them in the Plan, the Memorandum, or the applicable Objection, as applicable.

^{*} Denotes late-filed Objections. The Debtors reserve all rights to contest the validity of any late-filed Objection.

Heath Mendelsohn filed a letter in support of the FTC Objection after the deadline to file objections to the Plan. See Docket No. 1060.

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 124 of 135

DOCKET#	OBJECTING PARTY	OBJECTION SUMMARY	PROPOSED ACTION/RESPONSE
		Creditors and stakeholders are entitled to know whether the Sale Transaction provides a meaningful economic benefit other than the \$20 million sale of Voyager's customer list to Binance.US.	See Memorandum, section IV.B.
1050, 1097*	Ad Hoc Group of Equity Holders ("AHG," and such Objection the "AHG Objection")	The Plan and Confirmation Order should contain language clarifying that neither document will have any impact on the validity, extent, priority, or treatment of Intercompany Claims.	• The Debtors believe this Objection is resolved pursuant to language added to the Confirmation Order. See Confirmation Order ¶¶ 114, 123, 126.
		• The Confirmation Order should contain language clarifying that the Releases in the Plan will not prejudice the rights of any party that did not "opt in" to the applicable releases.	
		• The Plan (i) violates section 1123(a)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code by failing to specify whether Holders of Class 7 Intercompany Claims are Impaired or Unimpaired and inappropriately describes such Holders as deemed to accept the Plan; (ii) to the extent such Intercompany Claims are Impaired, fails to specify treatment for an Impaired Class under Bankruptcy Code section 1123(a)(3); and (iii) in the event that Intercompany Claims are to be cancelled or otherwise extinguished, seeks to deprive Class 9 Existing Equity Interest Holders of distributions to which they are entitled.	
		• The Plan is not fair and equitable with respect to Class 9 Existing Equity Interests.	
		• The cancellation of Existing Equity Interests under the Plan is impermissible.	
		• The Wind-Down Debtor should not be the only entity with the right to object to a proof of claim.	

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 125 of 135

DOCKET#	OBJECTING PARTY	OBJECTION SUMMARY	PROPOSED ACTION/RESPONSE
1051	New York State Department of Financial Services ("New York," and such Objection the "New York Objection") ³	• The Plan unfairly discriminates against Account Holders in Unsupported Jurisdictions, including New York, by delaying their recovery compared to creditors in the same class and by not allowing them the option to recover cryptocurrency instead of liquidated assets.	See Memorandum section IV.H.
1059*	Daniel Newsom and Jon Warren ("Newsom and Warren," and such Objection the "Newsom and Warren Objection")	• The Releases in the Plan should not be approved (i) for the reasons set forth in the FTC Objection; (ii) because there are viable claims against certain directors and officers and the third party Releases are not necessary to effectuate the Sale Transaction; and (iii) the Debtors' Releases of the directors and officers following the Special Committee Investigation is a poor exercise of their business judgment.	See Memorandum, sections IV.F, IV.I.1.
		Paul Hage should not be appointed wind down trustee and McDermott Will & Emery should not be appointed counsel to the Wind-Down Debtor; a third party should be appointed to oversee the wind down trust.	• See Statement of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors in Support of the Third Amended Joint Plan of Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc., and its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code [Docket No. 1109] (the "Committee Statement"), filed contemporaneously herewith, at ¶¶ 45–47,55–61.

The New York Objection is joined by the People of the State of New York, by Letitia James, Attorney General of the State of New York. *See* Docket No. 1052.

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 126 of 135

DOCKET#	OBJECTING PARTY	OBJECTION SUMMARY	PROPOSED ACTION/RESPONSE
		There is a conflict of interest between Committee chairman Jason Raznik and Stephen Ehrlich that renders the UCC ineffective.	• See Declaration of Jason Raznick in Support of the Statement of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors in Support of the Third Amended Joint Plan of Voyager Digital Holdings, Inc. and its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code (the "Raznick Declaration"), filed contemporaneously herewith, at ¶¶ 3–6.
		• The Plan unfairly discriminates against holders of VGX token in violation of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code because it will trigger a race to sell VGX before it loses its value.	See Memorandum, section IV.I.1.
1061*	Tracy Hendershott, Seth Jones, and Trevor Brucker ("Hendershott et al.," and such Objection, the "Hendershott et al. Objection")	• The Debtors are carrying on illegal business operations due, <i>inter alia</i> , to their being unlicensed sellers of unregistered securities, employing secretive and complex strategies and fee structures, and failing to require minimum investor qualifications.	The Debtors dispute this allegation, but in any event, it is not a barrier to confirmation.
		The Debtors have been operating a Ponzi scheme.	See Memorandum section IV.I.2.
		• The Debtors engaged in false and misleading advertisements and testimony to entice additional individual investors to invest on the Voyager platform.	The Debtors dispute this allegation, but in any event, it is not a barrier to confirmation.
		The Debtors entered into the FTX Asset Purchase Agreement despite substantial risks, elected not to exercise any back-up bidder clause in the Bidding Procedures, and ignored the Court's recommendation that they pursue a plan that allows for a toggle to self-liquidation.	• Entry into the FTX Asset Purchase Agreement was already approved by the Court. The Debtors' choice not to employ a back-up bidder as permitted by the Bidding Procedures was a valid exercise of their business judgment. Finally, the Plan includes the sort of toggle feature that Hendershott et al. request.
		Binance.US has provided inadequate disclosure.	See Memorandum, sections IV.A–C.

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 127 of 135

DOCKET#	OBJECTING PARTY	OBJECTION SUMMARY	PROPOSED ACTION/RESPONSE
		• There is a conflict of interest between Committee chairman Jason Raznik and Stephen Ehrlich that renders the UCC ineffective.	• See Raznick Declaration, ¶¶ 3–6.
		The Committee has failed to discharge its duties to the satisfaction of Hendershott et al.	• See Committee Statement, ¶¶ 7–40.
		Paul Hage should not be appointed wind down trustee and McDermott Will & Emery should not be appointed counsel to the Wind-Down Debtor.	• See Committee Statement, ¶¶ 45–47, 55–61.
		• The chapter 11 cases should be converted to cases under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code and a trustee should be appointed pursuant to section 1104 of the Bankruptcy Code.	See Memorandum, section IV.I.1.
		• The Releases proposed in the Plan should be denied (i) insofar as they permit a discharge that would be denied under section 727(a) of the Bankruptcy Code if the case were a case under chapter 7 and (ii) because they have no effect on the implementation of the Plan under section 1123(a)(5) of the Bankruptcy Code.	• The Debtors believe that Hendershott et al.'s allegation that the Plan contains an impermissible discharge is resolved pursuant to language added to the Confirmation Order. See Confirmation Order ¶ 141. See also Memorandum, section IV.F.
1063*, 1066*	Certain letters filed by Alah Shehadeh ("Mr. Shehadeh," and such Objections, the "Shehadeh Letters")	 The Shehadeh Letters variously allege that: Mr. Shehadeh has been denied his right to be heard under sections 341 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Due Process Clause of the United States Constitution, and established principles of bankruptcy law. 	See Memorandum, section IV.I.2.
		The Court has failed to maintain impartial as required by controlling case law, the Bankruptcy Rules, and the Judicial Conduct and Disability Act of 1980.	See Memorandum, section IV.I.2.
		• The Debtors' business enterprise is a Ponzi scheme and has been defrauding its customers and the market as evidenced by certain findings in the SEC investigation and other charges brought by governmental entities.	See Memorandum, section IV.I.2.

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 128 of 135

DOCKET#	OBJECTING PARTY	OBJECTION SUMMARY	PROPOSED ACTION/RESPONSE
1070*4	Mr. Shehadeh, Rawand Salah, Yousef Qasem, and Seth Jones (such objection the "Shehadah Claims Objection")	• The Account Holders are entitled to distributions in kind as opposed to in a dollarized amount.	See Memorandum, section IV.I.2.
		• Cryptocurrency on the Debtors' platform is property of the estate.	See Memorandum, section IV.I.2.
		• Failure to return cryptocurrency to Account Holders violates the Federal Trade Commission Act.	See Memorandum, section IV.I.2.
		• Cryptocurrency is a commodity under the Commodity Exchange Act.	See Memorandum, section IV.I.2.
1072*	Mr. Shehadeh (such motion, the "Shehadeh Motion")	• Mr. Shehadeh requests a change of venue or judge for these chapter 11 cases.	See Memorandum, section IV.I.2.
1078	Bank of New York Mellon ("BNY," and such Objection, the "BNY Objection") on behalf of Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing ("Shellpoint")	 Shellpoint holds a perfected mortgage lien on certain property that was transferred to the Debtors on January 5, 2023. BNY argues that such transfer of title should be voided to the extent not authorized by the Court. To the extent the Debtors were authorized to take title to the property, Shellpoint has a claim in excess of \$5.149 million that is not addressed in the Plan. 	• The Debtors believe this Objection is resolved pursuant to language added to the Confirmation Order. See Confirmation Order ¶ 152.
1082*	Mr. Shehadeh (such motion, the "Shehadeh Fraud Motion")	• The Debtors have issued fake coins to pay for expenses, provided false financial insights, and committed fraud to the detriment of their creditors in violation of the Bankruptcy Code, Securities Act, Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act.	See Memorandum, section IV.I.2.
		• Counsel to the Debtors has violated ethical and professional standards, including sections 110, 329, and 521 of the Bankruptcy Code.	See Memorandum, section IV.I.2.

_

⁴ The Shehadeh Claims Objection revised the *Objection to Claim Amounts* filed immediately prior to the Shehadeh Claims Objection. Docket No. 1069.

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 129 of 135

DOCKET#	OBJECTING PARTY	OBJECTION SUMMARY	PROPOSED ACTION/RESPONSE
1085	The U.S. Trustee (such Objection, the "U.S. Trustee Objection")	• The Disclosure Statement does not include adequate information related to Binance.US, specifically the due diligence the Debtors conducted to ensure Binance.US is a viable transaction partner, the security protocols in place to ensure Binance.US is able to keep Account Holders' Coins safe and secure, justification for the Debtors' claims that Binance.US will not engage in activities that might require registration with certain governmental agencies.	See Memorandum, section IV.A–C.
		• The Disclosure Statement does not contain adequate information regarding the rationale for including the Released Professionals and the Released Voyager Employees.	See Memorandum, section IV.F.
		• The Releases include prospective releases to the Wind-Down Debtors and the Plan Administrator.	• The Debtors believe this Objection is resolved pursuant to revisions to the Plan. <i>See</i> Plan Art. A.I.135.
		• The Exculpation is impermissibly broad and should be narrowed.	See Memorandum, section IV.F.
		• The Plan and Confirmation Order should make clear that the Court is not approving the undisclosed terms of the Employee Transition Plan and the Court is not approving any bonuses or severance plans in connection therewith.	• The Debtors believe this Objection is resolved pursuant to language added to the Confirmation Order. See Confirmation Order ¶ 146.
		• The Plan provides that proofs of claim will be considered objected to without further action from the Debtors.	The Debtors believe this Objection is resolved pursuant to revisions to the Plan. See Plan Art. VII.A.
		• The Wind-Down Debtor should not be the only entity with the right to object to a proof of claim.	The Debtors believe this Objection is resolved pursuant to revisions to the Plan. See Plan Art. VII.B.
		Claims filed after the Bar Date should be deemed "late filed," not automatically disallowed and expunged.	The Debtors believe this Objection is resolved pursuant to revisions to the Plan. See Plan Art. VII.A.

22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 130 of 135

DOCKET#	OBJECTING PARTY	OBJECTION SUMMARY	PROPOSED ACTION/RESPONSE
1086	Texas State Securities Board ("Texas," and such Objection, the "Texas Objection")	• The Disclosure Statement does not contain adequate information regarding: (i) the possibility that recoveries for Holders of Account Holder Claims may be diminished if Alameda is successful in proving its administrative expense claim; (ii) Alameda's possible defenses to subordination of their claim; and (iii) the transfer, use, and indemnity requirements Account Holders must agree to in order to use Binance.US's services.	See Memorandum, section IV.D.
		• The Plan unfairly discriminates against Account Holders in Unsupported Jurisdictions, including Texas, by delaying their recovery compared to creditors in the same class and by not allowing them the option to recover cryptocurrency instead of liquidated assets.	See Memorandum section IV.H.
		• The Releases and Injunctions in the Plan are a disguised discharge that violates section 1141(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code.	• The Debtors believe that Texas's allegation that the Plan contains an impermissible discharge is resolved pursuant to language added to the Confirmation Order. See Confirmation Order ¶ 141.
1087	New Jersey Bureau of Securities ("New Jersey," and such Objection, the "New Jersey Objection")	 New Jersey joins the SEC Objection and all parts of the Texas Objection other than the Section C ("The Plan Needlessly and Unfairly Discriminates Against Texas Consumers"). 	See supra Debtors' responses to the SEC Objection and the Texas Objection.
		• New Jersey adds that the rebalancing contemplated by the Plan may violate New Jersey securities law.	See Memorandum section IV.E.
		• New Jersey objects to any provision in the Plan that would discharge New Jersey's claims, or any portion thereof, that fall within the protections of sections 523(a)(2)(A)–(B) of the Bankruptcy Code.	• The Debtors believe that New Jersey's allegation that the Plan contains an impermissible discharge is resolved pursuant to language added to the Confirmation Order. See Confirmation Order ¶ 141.

Exhibit B

December 3, 2021, Letter to New York Department of Financial Services



Ethan L. Silver
Partner

1251 Avenue of the Americas New York, New York 10020

T: 212.419.5862 **F**: 973.597.2400

E: esilver@lowenstein.com

December 3, 2021

FOIL CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT REQUESTED

SENT VIA EMAIL: daniel.sangeap@dfs.ny.gov

Daniel Sangeap NYS Department of Financial Services ("DFS") One State Street New York, NY 10004-1511

Re: Voyager Digital LLC ("Voyager") - New York Resident Accounts

Dear Mr. Sangeap,

As discussed during our telephone conversation on November 23, 2021 please see below for further details regarding certain Voyager customer accounts with listed residences in New York State as well as relevant remedial measures.

Overview

Voyager, founded in 2018, is one of the fastest-growing cryptocurrency platforms in the United States with over 2.7 million verified users on its mobile application (the "App"). Voyager does not solicit business for any of its services from New York residents; disclaimers on Voyager's website and app store descriptions expressly provide that New York residents are currently not permitted to use the App. To prevent New York residents from opening Voyager accounts and using its App, Voyager has developed a user entitlement feature within the App that only allows users to open a Voyager account if the user resides in one of Voyager's approved jurisdictions. This user entitlement feature has been in place since the App's public launch in February 2019 and has successfully blocked approximately 87,000 New York residents from opening accounts with Voyager.

NY Resident Accounts

Despite the procedures put in place by Voyager to block New York residents from opening accounts, however, Voyager currently has over 1,000 customer accounts with listed residences in New York State. The circumstances under which these accounts have been opened broadly fall into the following five (5) categories:

- 1. Voyager employees, investors, business partners, and advisors;
- 2. Close friends and family of Voyager employees;
- 3. Beta version users of the App;
- 4. Users inadvertently permitted to open accounts as a result of errors associated with implementing an emergency feature (as further detailed below); and

NEW YORK PALO ALTO NEW JERSEY UTAH WASHINGTON, D.C. Lowenstein Sandler LLP

FOIL CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT REQUESTED

5. Users who have moved to New York <u>after</u> opening a Voyager account as a resident of another state.

1. Voyager employees, investors, business partners, and advisors

Approximately 70 Voyager accounts belong to New York-based Voyager employees, investors, business partners, and advisors. These users are all sophisticated parties, and have an important business need to personally interact with the App and its features to be effective in their roles. To allow New York-based users in this category to open Voyager accounts, Voyager created an override to the user entitlement feature that allows New York-based accounts to be opened if the user has been added to an internal list (the "whitelist"). All New York-based Voyager employees, investors, business partners, and advisors with Voyager accounts were specifically added to the whitelist prior to them opening their respective accounts.

2. Close friends and family of Voyager employees

Voyager has an internal policy of allowing close friends and family members of Voyager employees to open Voyager accounts. This policy serves the important business need of allowing Voyager employees to discreetly solicit valuable candid feedback on the App and its functionality. As a result, there are approximately 250 New York-based users that have been placed on the whitelist and permitted to open accounts under the close friends and family policy.

3. Beta version users

In October 2018 Voyager released a beta—*i.e.*, early or test—version of the App to a limited subset of users who had specifically signed up to try out the beta. Due to the beta's early, unfinished nature, Voyager had not yet implemented a system to block New York users from opening accounts and using the App at the time of the beta's launch. Consequently, there are approximately 20 New York-based users that still have Voyager accounts that were opened during the beta period.

Soon after the beta's launch, however, Voyager quickly moved to implement the user entitlement feature to block New York residents from opening accounts, and the user entitlement feature has been in place since the App was officially and publicly launched in February 2019.

4. Users inadvertently permitted to open accounts as a result of errors associated with implementing an emergency feature

Around 1,100 New York-based users were inadvertently permitted to open Voyager accounts as a result of errors associated with implementing an emergency feature on the App during a period of massive and unanticipated growth in Voyager's user base. In January 2021, a confluence of several public events—including the Gamestop-Robinhood controversy—suddenly resulted in an enormous influx of new users attempting to open Voyager accounts. This unprecedented volume ended up crashing the App entirely. In order to re-establish existing user access to their Voyager accounts, Voyager implemented emergency updates, including an emergency waitlist feature that was designed to prevent the additional load of new users still waiting to open Voyager accounts from crashing the App again. To implement the emergency waitlist, Voyager made some adjustments to the existing whitelist feature. Given the extremely expedited nature of the emergency work from this period—Voyager successfully restored the App within 48 hours—however, human errors in adjusting the whitelist inadvertently allowed a subset of New York-based users to open Voyager accounts, although the user entitlement feature was still able to block many New York residents from doing so.

These errors have since been identified and remediated by Voyager, and can no longer be used by New York residents to open Voyager accounts.

5. Users who have moved to New York after opening a Voyager account elsewhere



22-10943-mew Doc 1110 Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Pg 134 of 135

FOIL CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT REQUESTED

Approximately eight current Voyager users opened their accounts in other jurisdictions but subsequently moved to New York, where they now reside. Voyager is currently in the process of memorializing policies and procedures to address current and future New York accounts in this category of users.

Remediation Measures

As indicated above, Voyager has since undertaken significant remedial efforts to safeguard against the inadvertent opening of New York resident Voyager accounts. These measures include: (1) significantly restricting the use of whitelists together with instituting robust supervisory procedures; and (2) enhancing ongoing Voyager account monitoring procedures.

As it relates to remediating existing New York resident accounts, despite the de minimis nature of these accounts, Voyager is committed to protecting the best interests of these New York resident customers. Rather than possibly restricting or closing these accounts, which would expose customers to potentially significant financial and tax consequences, Voyager believes an orderly transition of these accounts to a DFS-approved trading platform (a "Qualified Provider") will provide the best path forward from a customer protection perspective. Of course, Voyager looks to work collaboratively with DFS to ensure all appropriate steps taken would be consistent with DFS guidance.

Given the strength of Voyager's existing relationships with each of its New York resident customers and their familiarity with the Voyager platform, Voyager strongly believes that transferring these accounts to Voyager Digital NY LLC ("Voyager NY") upon DFS approval of its outstanding virtual currency and money transmission license applications provides the most efficient and effective solution. Voyager has worked tirelessly in good faith, and at considerable cost and expense, over the course of the last three years to obtain licensure in New York. Despite having limited visibility into the DFS approval timeframe, Voyager understands that Voyager NY's virtual currency and money transmission applications may shortly be subject to approval. In anticipation of Voyager NY becoming a Qualified Provider, Voyager has been dedicating significant resources into establishing the technology, security, and infrastructure that would be necessary to safely and securely convert existing New York resident accounts to Voyager NY.

We appreciate DFS discussing these issues with us and look forward to continuing this dialogue, not only in connection with completing the Voyager NY virtual currency and money transmission applications, but also with respect to resolving the above remediation items to everyone's satisfaction.

We respectfully request confidential treatment pursuant to the state Freedom of Information Law ("FOIL"), N.Y. Pub. Off. § 89(5), of this letter (the "Letter"). The information contained in this Letter constitutes proprietary trade secrets and/or confidential commercial and financial information. Specifically, we request that this Letter be treated as nonpublic and confidential, exempt from production under FOIL pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Off. § 87(2) and any other applicable law or regulation, that the information not be published, made part of any public record, or made available to any person.

We also respectfully request that you please notify David Brosgol at the email address indicated above of the receipt of any request for access under FOIL to any information or document covered by this request for confidential treatment under FOIL. We request that the New York Department of Financial Services ("<u>DFS</u>") promptly advise us whenever any person makes a request pursuant to FOIL or otherwise for the information or documents for which confidential treatment is sought. If the DFS intends to release the information or document, we request that we be given ten (10) days' advance notice of any such release and an opportunity to object and pursue available remedies.



Filed 02/28/23 Entered 02/28/23 16:27:01 Main Document Doc 1110 22-10943-mew Pg 135 of 135 FOIL CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT REQUESTED

If you have any questions about this letter or require any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at 212.419.5862.

Sincerely,

Ethan L. Silver

Mariya Komartsova, <u>mariya.komartsova@dfs.ny.gov</u> Adrienne Oppenheim, <u>Adrienne.oppenheim@dfs.ny.gov</u> CC:

